DAILY REPORT

Latin America

Vol VI No 007 *11 January 1983*

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REPORTAGE ON REACTION TO THATCHER FALKLAND VISIT

President Criticizes Visit

PY101823 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1440 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 10 Jan (TELAM) -- President Reynaldo Bignone stated today that Margaret Thatcher's trip to the Malvinas Islands is a new act of provocation and arrogance, since the visit reasserts the only title that Great Britain can show for the possession of the islands: force. This was the president's answer to questions from newsmen at Government House and was given through Emilio Ibarra, press director of the presidency.

Ministers, Politicians Comment

PY101832 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1904 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Jan (NA) -- Interior Minister Gen Llamil Reston, political leaders and a high-ranking officer who fought in the South Atlantic war today strongly condemned Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's presence on the Malvinas Islands, remarking that the trip was made for electoral reasons.

Only by midday was it possible to hear the interior minister's statement condemning Mrs Thatcher's trip to the Malvinas. Minister Reston stated that the prime minister's presence on the archipelago has been "a surprise for all Argentines." Speaking in Mar del Plata, Reston stressed that the British prime minister's presence on the Malvinas Islands "follows the traditional pattern of British colonialist arrogance." However, he explained that "the issue is in the hands of Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari, who has already released a statement on the matter."

Through a communique released last night, the foreign minister referred to the visit paid by Mrs Thatcher to the Malvinas Islands as "a provocation."

President Reynaldo Bignone, who stayed at the Olivos residence today, made no statement concerning the British prime minister's trip. The commanders of the three branches of the armed forces have also remained silent on Mrs Thatcher's visit.

In turn, Amadeo Frugoli, who was defense minister during the Malvinas war, said that the prime minister's trip to the islands is "an act of provocation and aggression from a decaying colonialist system." He added that "if Great Britain respected the laws ruling international relations, it would engaged in serious negotiations as soon as possible in keeping with UN General Assembly resolutions." Speaking with NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS over the phone from Mendoza, Frugoli said: "I am sure that history is on our side and that sooner or later the Malvinas Islands will once again become sovereign Argentine territory." He remarked that through her visit to the archipelago, "the prime minister wants to confirm what she regards as a political victory. In that way she is seeking to strengthen her increasingly weak international political position."

Meanwhile, a high-ranking officer who fought in the South Atlantic war and who asked not to be identified told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that "Mrs Thatcher's toughness will force us to respond accordingly, that is, we will have to be tough ourselves." He said that the prime minister's presence will "stalemate" negotiations, noting that such a situation is "positive since we have a bootlicking government that is ready to follow any course which may best suit its interests."

After stating that the prime minister's husband owns "Falkland Islands Company" shares, the officer remarked that "the Thatchers conceal their need to count their pounds sterling on the Malvinas behind a facade of political idealism." He added that Margaret Thatcher's visit has surely been viewed by armed forces officers and by the Argentine people as an arrogant action." However, he stressed that this action "will contribute to the unity of Argentines and, above all, will convince us that the only possible solution is diplomatic negotiations."

For his part, Justicialist Party presidential aspirant Angel Robledo stated that Margaret Thatcher's unexpected visit "is a new expression of [Britain's] belligerent spirit and its disregard for the international community, represented by the United Nations and by Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, its secretary general." By the end of 1982, the United Nations had urged the two sides to negotiate an agreement concerning sovereignty over the archipelago and asked Perez de Cuellar to take the necessary steps.

Robledo, who was minister of the interior, defense and of foreign affairs during the last Peronist administration, remarked that Mrs Thatcher's visit "generates tension in the international arena, renders a peaceful solution more difficult and, as such, is nothing but a political action by the prime minister, taking into account the British internal situation. It is a clear-cut case of using an international conflict to settle domestic problems, a frequent temptation for rulers during difficult times," Robledo said.

Enrique Vanoli, the Radical leader, who recently explained the opinion of Argentina's five largest parties on the Malvinas issue in the United Nations and other international forums, said that "Mrs Thatcher, who charged that Argentine rulers used the recovery of the islands for political purposes, is doing exactly that herself." He explained that "the visit has been made taking into account Great Britain's internal situation and British voters," and stressed that "this provocation gives us more strength for continuing our struggle for the recovery of the Malvinas." He noted that Mrs Thatcher's trip was made "at a time when the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement will favor a shift in the attitude of those nations that were reluctant to support the Argentine position at the last UN vote." He contended that, from the international standpoint, the prime minister's trip "is imprudent, but she evidently preferred such external wear and tear in return for a stronger domestic standing."

Commenting on Margaret Thatcher's presence on the Malvinas Islands, Christian Democratic Party leader Jose Antonio Alende charged that Great Britain and the British prime minister have a "regressive mentality."

L.A. Foreign Ministers' Remarks

PY101415 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Jan 83

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Managua, 9 Jan (NA) -- The foreign ministers of several Latin American countries in the Nonaligned Movement strongly criticized Margaret Thatcher's presence on the Malvinas Islands and regarded the British prime minister's action as "a new expression of colonialism," and "a provocation against the rights of the Argentine people and nation."

Nicaraguan foreign minister Miguel d'Escoto told NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS that "Mrs Thatcher's presence on the Malvinas Islands is a new, arrogant expression of colonialism which disregards the UN resolutions seeking a peaceful solution leading to the restoration of Argentina's sovereignty over those islands, which are part of Latin America."

In turn, Ecuadorean Deputy Foreign Minister Hernan Veintemilla said he was surprised at the "unexpected and untimely British decision."

"Not only is it a [word indistinct] to Latin America, a region which has lent its full support to the Argentine struggle for its just rights," he went on, "but also a slap to the civilized world."

Mexican Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Flores Olle made similar remarks and referred to the quest for solutions that both Mexico and Venezuela have undertaken regarding that conflict and regarding "the critical Central American and Caribbean situation."

For his part, Cuban Foreign Minister Ignacio Malmierca noted that "there is a long history of provocations and aggressions against the right of the Argentine people and nation to assume sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands." Malmierca also remarked that the British action "has hurt not only Argentina, but also all Latin American peoples which have made the Argentine claim for sovereignty over that part of our continent their own cause."

"It is a new action which reveals a lack of respect for our people's right and which, we are sure, will elicit and appropriate reaction -- severe criticism and strong condemnation -- from the Nonaligned Movement," Malmierca concluded.

AGUIRRE LANARI'S ACTIVITIES IN MANAGUA

Meets Nicaraguan Counterpart

PY101420 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2018 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Jan (DYN) -- Gustavo Figueroa, the chief of the Argentine Foreign Ministry Cabinet, stated today that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's visit to the Malvinas Islands "will have a negative influence" on the British position in the sovereignty issue and that such an influence may favor Argentina.

Speaking with DYN over the phone from Managua, where Figueroa and Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari will attend a preparatory meeting of the Nonaligned Movement, the diplomat revealed that the Argentine foreign minister has already held a 1-hour meeting with his Nicaraguan counterpart, Miguel d'Escoto.

Figueroa told DYN that Aguirre Lanari and his entourage arrived in Managua at about 1500 Argentine time [1800 GMT] and that he was received by D'Escoto at the airport, where the two ministers held their meeting. Figueroa noted that Aguirre Lanari then had lunch with Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry officials and that later in the afternoon he met Argentine officials in order to analyze the speech that he will deliver tomorrow to the Nonaligned Movement representatives, who will be holding a preparatory meeting for the plenum scheduled to be held in New Delhi in about 2 months.

"We are optimistic about the support we will be given," Figueroa remarked.

Asked whether Mrs Thatcher's visit to the Malvinas will involve an indirect advantage for Argentina, he replied: "I don't know whether it will favor the Argentine positon, but I do know that it will negatively influence the British position," since it "shows indirectly that the United Kingdom, unlike Argentina, has not observed the United Nations request to negotiate."

Reschedules Address

PY102333 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2043 GMT 10 Jan 83

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Managua, 10 Jan (NA) -- It was officially announced today that Argentine Foreign Minister Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari made a last minute decision to postpone until Wednesday his announced speech at the Managua meeting of the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau.

In his speech, Aguirre Lanari will outline the Argentine position regarding the alleged British intention to set up a nuclear base on the Malvinas, diplomatic sources stated. The sources added that the head of San Martin Palace will also express his support for an overall renegotiation of the foreign debts of all Latin American countries.

It was expected that the Argentine position would be outlined shortly after noon today. However, it was unexpectedly announced that Aguirre Lanari's address had been postponed until Wednesday morning. The Argentine delegation did not specify the reasons that prompted the decision. The decision to postpone the speech was made this afternoon. According to reports, the speech was allegedly postponed due to the need to introduce "last minute" changes in it.

It was learned in this regard that the most important point of the speech would be criticism of the possible establishment of a nuclear base in the Malvinas, a point which was not included in the message at noon today.

The text of a speech that was unofficially circulating in diplomatic circles and was believed to be the one that Aguirre Lanari would deliver emphasized the fact that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's presence in the Malvinas was "another aggression." Another of the subjects that Aguirre Lanari might outline in his speech is the Argentine support for a proposal to completely renegotiate all the Latin American countries' foreign debts. Argentina would also support the Mexican proposal to mediate in the serious confrontation between some of the Central American countries.

MUNIZ: U.S. SHOULD ADMIT 'INCORRECT' AREA POLICY

PY102140 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1755 GMT 10 Jan 83

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Managua, 10 Jan (NA) -- Carlos Muniz, Argentine ambassador to the United Nations, stated in Managua today that Argentina "is waiting" for the United States to admit, as it did in the Malvinas case, that it has implemented an incorrect policy in Central America. In statements made to NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS, the diplomat stated that "in the Malvinas case, Washington acknowledged that it had made a mistake, and it rectified its position during the last vote held at the United Nations."

"We are waiting for the United States to do the same regarding its position on the Central American situation," the Argentine ambassador to the United Nations stated.

Muniz stated that Argentina was participating in the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau, which began in the Nicaraguan capital today, "feeling extremely grateful and full of solidarity."

"Argentina has an immovable faith in Latin American unity. We should now do what we have already proven, that we can unite before the rest of the world."

Muniz added that "we have a strength of our own, a common tradition to defend, and ideals for which to fight. This is our position." At the same time, the diplomat categorically denied that there are Argentine military advisers in Honduras, as has been reported recently.

"I am absolutely sure that there are no Argentine military advisers in Honduras. The present Argentine Government has nothing to do with that business. I strongly maintain that no country should interfere in the domestic affairs of other countries," Muniz stated.

Muniz expressed his support for a new international economic order aimed at resolving a country's problems without any sort of political interference. Muniz concluded by stating that "Argentina is in full agreement with the proposal submitted by the Mexican and Venezuelan presidents to find a peaceful solution to the Central American situation."

MILITARY ACTIONS AGAINST NICARAGUA DENIED

PY100137 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1930 GMT 9 Jan 83

[By special correspondent]

[Text] Managua, 9 Jan (TELAM) -- Ambassador Carlos Muniz, Argentine representative to the United Nationa, categorically denied in Managua today that Argentine servicemen are engaged in counterrevolutionary activities against the Sandinist Government of Nicaragua. In statements made to the press, Muniz stated that I must once again make it clear that my government has no knowledge of any Argentine military force participating in the actions being carried out in the region.

MONETARY UNIT CREATED, TO CIRCULATE BY 30 JUNE

PY072104 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1605 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 7 Jan (TELAM) -- A new monetary unit has created and will be issued under the terms of Law 22,707, which has been passed by the executive branch. The new monetary unit, called Argentine peso, will start circulating no later than 30 June 1983. Each new Argentine peso will be equivalent to 1,000 current pesos, which were created by Law 18,188. This announcement was made at noon today by the General Press Department of the Presidential Public Information Secretariat.

BRIEFS

GRAIN EXPORTS -- The National Grain Board [JNG] reports that a record 1,375,000 tons of grain and grain by-products were exported during December 1982, as compared to 308,000 tons during December 1981. The JNG also reports that 19,132,000 tons of grain and grain by-products were exported during 1982. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 5 Jan 83 PY]

REPORTAGE ON MIR MINISTERS' RESIGNATIONS

Resignation Letter Reported

PY101537 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Excerpts] Constitutional President Hernan Siles Zuazo held a number of talks with various sectors yesterday in attempts to solve the political impasse which has emerged within the Democratic and Popular Unity [UDP]. These negotiations were undertaken after a letter of resignation had been submitted by the ministers belonging to the Movement of the Revolutionary Left [MIR].

The ministers who have resigned are: Finance Minister Ernesto Aranibar, Education Minister Alfonso Camacho, Industry and Commerce Minister Jorge Crespo, Public Health and Social Security Minister Mario Argandona, Energy and Hydrocarbons Minister Jorge O'Connor Darlach and Integration Minister Hormando Vaca Diez. The letter of resignation was officially released during a press conference presided over by top MIR leaders at the party headquarters on (Sanchez Lima) Street. It says:

When the UDP assumed the high responsibility of the political leadership of the country, it was on the condition that the Ministries of Finance, Education, Industry, Information, Public Health, Energy and Hydrocarbons be assigned to persons chosen by MIR. We now find ourselves under the unavoidable moral and patriotic obligation to tell you that the evaluation of your time of constitutional government, made by the MIR, has led to conclusions which are known to you and which are fully shared by us, both personally and as members of your cabinet.

The letter adds: It is the deep concern of the MIR that the formidable democratic victory obtained by the people on 10 October last year is progressively deteriorating due to the persistent and lengthening absence of a unified and coherent center in the front of political leadership. This is a concern among us and, we believe, among the Bolivian people as well.

The letter addressed to the president then says: The need for an immediate strengthening of the unity of the front is a central government concern which [if achieved] may widen the scope of action to serve the interest of the nation and people in preserving and deepening the democratic process. This is essentially the observation and proposal of the MIR which we sign and submit to Your Excellency on this occasion.

It adds: This observation and proposal are the result of an analysis whose only aim is to serve the best interests of the process, the front, the people and the country.

The letter was handed over to the press during a press conference held yesterday during which Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora and MIR leaders Antonio Aranibar and Oscar Eid Franco made statements.

Vice President on Resignations

PY110138 Paris AFP in Spanish 1708 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] La Paz, 9 Jan (AFP) -- Bolivian Vice President Jaime Paz Zamora stated today that the resignations submitted by the six MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] cabinet ministers does not mean that his party has withdrawn from the government or from the Popular and Democratic Unity (UDP).

In a press conference which he granted in La Paz yesterday, the Bolivian vice president, who belongs to the MIR, stated that the MIR cabinet ministers' resignations should be considered as an attempt to facilitate the finding of a solution to the political crisis which broke out within the governing front.

Paz Zamora stated: We believe that there is an increasing misunderstanding between the UDP's grassroots and the UDP's leadership. We believe, moreover, that Interior Minister Mario Roncal Antezana is attempting to use the UDP's leadership in a sectarian way.

The MIR maintains that the interior minister used harsh and contentious terminology when referring to the criticism raised by MIR leader Oscar Eid Franco that the government was negligent in repressing paramilitary groups and drug traffickers.

Thus far, it has not been possible to ask President Siles Zuazo for his position regarding the MIR ministers' resignations. According to analysis, this event will force President Siles Zuazo to totally reshuffle his group of assistants.

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR MANAGUA 9 JAN

PY101557 La Paz Cadena Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Mario Velarde Dorado left for Managua, capital of Nicaragua, last night to participate in the meeting of foreign ministers from the nonaligned countries which will be held today. Mario Velarde traveled in the presidential plane to Panama, where he will be picked up by a Nicaraguan plane.

The trip was originally scheduled for Saturday night, but was postponed because of the crisis in the Democratic and Popular Unity front.

According to official sources, the foreign minister will remain in Nicaragua 5 days and will then visit the Honduran capital on 15 and 16 January. Official spokesmen said that the schedule of the trip has been changed because of the political events in the country.

'SPECIAL' PRAVDA ARTICLE CITED BY HAVANA

PA101730 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] As a member of the Nonaligned Movement, Bolivia will actively struggle to abolish the remnants of colonialism, neocolonialism and racism, Bolivian Foreign Minister Mario Velarde told a PRAVDA correspondent.

In a special article on Bolivia, PRAVDA says the government of Hernan Siles Zuazo has begun the country's democratization and is also trying to resolve its serious economic problems.

PRAVDA also carries a statement by Carlos Barragan, Bolivian mines and metallurgy minister, expressing optimism about the plans being implemented to develop the mining sector. On the other hand, the workers at the Siglo XX Mine complained to PRAVDA that their main problems are disease, especially silicosis, and poor housing.

Bolivian Communist Party leader Jorge Kolle told PRAVDA that Bolivia is going through very difficult times, but that the workers know their power and will make every effort to ensure their country's welfare.

RADIO, TV STRIKE ANNOUNCED FOR 11 JANUARY

PY101542 La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Excerpt] The Radio and Television Workers' Federation has announced that it will hold a 24-hour strike on Tuesday, 11 January, demanding compliance with salary regulations decreed by the government. The decision of the labor organization became known through a resolution which says:

A 24-hour strike is declared beginning at 0000 11 January 1983 throughout all of La Paz Department. It is warned that stronger measures will be taken if appropriate solutions are not found.

POLICE ISSUE GENERAL ORDER OF PROMOTIONS

PY061748 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 28 Dec 82 p 8

[Excerpt] The Bolivian police issued its general order of promotions yesterday confirming Bolivian police commander Eddy Cordero Marquez' promotion to brigadier general "in keeping with D.S. [Decree] No 19235 issued on 15 October 1982 and Article No 66 of the Bolivian Police Law."

The order also includes the promotions of 12 lieutenant colonels to colonel; of 33 majors to lieutenant colonel; of 34 captains to major; 46 lieutenants to captains; and 63 second lieutenants to lieutenants.

The details of promotions in the police force are as follows:
Bolivian Police General Order No 4/82
La Paz, 24 December 1982
With the approval of constitutional President Hernan Siles Zuazo, Interior Minister Mario Roncal Antezana and in keeping with the laws and regulations in force, the commander of the Bolivian police establishes:
1. Promotions.
In view of having fulfilled those requirements established by law and the regulations and orders of the Bolivian police, the following chiefs and officers are promoted as of 1 January 1983:
To general: Col Eddy Cordero Marquez, in keeping with Presidential Decree No 19235 issued on 15 October 1982 and in keeping with Article No 66 of the Bolivian Police Law.
To colonel: Lt Col Alfonso Renjel Torrico, Aurelio Orellana Mendoza, Edgar Bustillos Nogales, Juan Ugarte Ponce de Leon, Victor Ugarte Alvarez, Milton Romero Flores, Virgilio Rivera Pacheco, Victor Montano Viscarra, Antonio del Pozo Acha, Jaime Barrera Moreno, Felix Lora Caballero and Mario Molina Herrera.

To lieutenant colonel: Luis Leygye Mealla, Jose Velez Daza, Gustavo Cespedes Barrientos, Hernan Cerruto Bozo, Victor Montecinos Cruz, Carlos Irigoyen Saleg, Hugo de la Torre Lucero, Pedro Garnica Navarro, Luis Gutierrez Terrazas, Oscar Aquin Garvalho, Gustavo Garniva Navarro, Einar Lopez Flores, Felipe Carvajal Badani, Jaime Cespedes Barrientos, Mario Torres Vargas, Luis Rocha Martinez, Remigio Crespo Rodriguez, Franklin Gonzalez Mendivil, Eduardo Guaman Andia, Freddy Daza Sanjines, Luis Arevalo Zarate, Mario Rojas Rojas, Isman Yanez Roca, Ricardo Foronda Rodriguez, Alejandro Bernal Ulloa, Celier Rojas Ferrufino, Remberto Escobar Plata, Walter Romero Flores, Adolfo Paton Lazarte, Angel Vera Carrasco, Gaston Quevedo Perales, Ciro Cordova Fernandez and Manuel Venegas Flores.

REPORTAGE ON END OF ISLA CONTADORA MEETING

Area Peace Proposals Viewed

PA101519 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1215 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Interview with Panamanian and Venezuelan Foreign Ministers Juan Jose Amado and Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco, at a news conference at the Holiday Inn on 9 January, following 2 days of talks among the Colombian, Venezuelan and Mexican foreign ministers on Contadora Island -- recorded]

[Excerpt] Concerning Panama's position on the various peace initiatives to resolve Central America's conflicts, Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado said:

[Begin recording] [Amado] We think that the solution should basically originate with the groups that are directly affected or involved. However, our countries should create the necessary atmosphere or climate; our countries should create the mechanisms that will foster suitable solutions. There is also the mechanism of dialogue and understanding. If tensions prevail and radical positions are taken, then it will be more difficult for the various groups to begin this dialogue.

[Question] What is Panama's view on alleged foreign intervention in Central America?

[Answer] We discussed this topic, not in terms of any one nation's intervention, but in terms of the need to strengthen the mechanisms so that the various countries can make their own decisions and follow the best guidelines for achieving the goals of development and peaceful coexistence. Discussing the participation of a number of countries in various aspects of other countries' lives would not only be futile and impractical, but perhaps unproductive in terms of preserving peace in the area. The basic and essential thing is to reach an understanding guaranteeing that each people's individual rights will be respected.

[Question] Mr minister, what does Panama expect from the United States in terms of solving the current conflicts in the area?

[Answer] After reviewing the positions held by many of the countries and the contributions that they might make during the various discussions, we think that the United States could participate in the necessary deliberations. Perhaps the interests of the various nations are not necessarily the same at all times, but the ultimate goal and purpose is always peaceful coexistence. We think that the United States is aware of this and will respect the various ideas and alternatives presented to achieve this objective.

Concerning whether Colombia has a specific proposal to make to achieve regional pacification, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano said:

[Begin recording] I think that peace proposals have come from many sides. Mexico and Venezuela made a proposal last year. Later, at a meeting in Costa Rica, several other countries made interesting contributions to this effort. Perhaps we should also take into consideration the message that the Nobel Prize winners recently sent to the presidents of Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia in connection with trying to mediate somehow [words indistinct]. However, the problem is complex and we should not act hastily [words indistinct] good will of all the Central American countries to pacify the area and to achieve [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Communique Cited

PA100540 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Jan 83

[(Maricarmen) Sarsanedas' report]

[Text] The foreign ministers of Panama, Colombia, Venezuela and Mexico today made an urgent appeal to all countries in the Central American area to ease tensions and establish the foundation for a permanent climate of peaceful coexistence and mutual respect through dialogue and negotiation. This is stated in the joint communique that concluded the meeting held yesterday by the four foreign ministers on Contadora Island.

The communique was released today during a news conference at the Holiday Inn hotel in Tocumen, attended by Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo, Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco and Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado III.

At the meeting on Contadora Island, the foreign ministers reviewed the various Central American peace proposals and reiterated their determination to go on contributing to the economic strengthening of the Central American and Caribbean countries.

Regarding the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement, the foreign ministers concurred on the importance of expanding the participation of the Latin American nations in it, and voiced hopes for the success of the meeting to be held in Nicaragua.

The communique notes that faithful compliance with the canal treaties is regarded as extremely important. Finally, the foreign ministers underscored the significance of the bicentennial of Simon Bolivar's birth and the opportunity it affords to strengthen friendship and promote cooperation among all Latin American peoples.

Report on Communique

PA101606 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 10 Jan 83 pp 1, A-14

[Text] At the end of a 2-day meeting, the foreign ministers of Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama urgently appealed to the Central American countries to uphold dialogue and negotiation as a way of reducing tensions and laying the groundwork for a permanent climate of peaceful coexistence and mutual respect among nations.

The foreign ministers, who examined the area's socioeconomic and political problems, concluded that direct or indirect foreign interference or any factors that intensify Central America's conflict must be swiftly eliminated. In this regard, the four foreign ministers stressed that it is highly undesirable for those conflicts to be included within the context of the East-West confrontation. They expressed this concern after examining the area's complex panorama, its political processes, their interrelation and their effects on the region's peace and stability.

Mexican Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, Colombian Foreign Minister Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo, Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano V and Panamanian Foreign Minister Juan Jose Amado ended their 2-day meeting on Contadora Island, which took place at the invitation of the Panamanian Foreign Minister yesterday.

The occurrence and objective of this meeting fall within the framework of the feelings of brotherhood, solidarity and mutual understanding that have traditionally linked the governments and peoples of Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela and Panama.

During their stay in Panama, the ministers met with Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella and other high-ranking government officials. In their working sessions, they discussed various subjects of regional interest and agreed on the need to intensify the Latin American dialogue as an effective way to confront the area's political, economic and social problems, which compromise the peace, democracy, stability and development of the continent's peoples.

The foreign ministers reiterated that all states have an obligation to refrain from using threats or force in their international relations. In this respect, they urged states to refrain from undertaking actions that could make the situation worse and create the danger of a generalized conflict that could extend throughout the region.

They also reviewed the various peace initiatives and their likely effects. In this regard, expressing their respect for the principles of nonintervention and of the self-determination of peoples, the foreign ministers analyzed possible new actions and stressed the benefits of including in those efforts the valuable contributions and the necessary support of other countries in the Latin American community. They reaffirmed their decision to continue working to strengthen the Central American and Caribbean countries economically through initiatives such as the energy cooperation program sponsored by Mexico and Venezuela and the financial cooperation plan being undertaken by Colombia. They believe that these and other similar economic cooperation measures help to achieve the objectives of political stability and social peace.

On the subject of the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau meeting to be held in Managua, Nicaragua 10-14 January, the foreign ministers stressed the importance of the Nonaligned Movement for the developing nations. They expressed best wishes for the meeting's success, while noting that its final conclusions should work toward the achievement of sensible and constructive solutions to the region's problems. They agreed on the importance of expanding Latin American participation in the Nonaligned Movement, either as members or observers, because this guarantees better consultation, dialogue and negotiation, thus strengthening the bases of nonalignment and political pluralism.

On examining international economic issues, the foreign ministers noted with concern the world economy's recessive tendency. They pointed out the negative effects this situation has on Latin America in terms of the flow of financing, trade, investment and employment and they stressed the need to reorganize the imbalanced international economic system, which causes great difficulties for the developing countries.

The foreign ministers also examined the contraction in world trade, the prevalence of protectionism in industrialized countries and the conditions imposed on and the insufficiency of foreign credit. They noted that to promote financing for development, domestic savings, foreign exchange resources and other complementary financial sources are necessary. These essential elements will permit, to the extent they are implemented, the consolidation of productive investment within Latin American economies, and will guarantee the creation of jobs.

The foreign ministers stressed the importance of periodic ministerial-level consultations to discuss economic subjects of interest to Latin America.

In view of the evident usefulness of coordination within SELA, the foreign ministers pointed out the relevance of the Latin American and Caribbean ministerial meeting to be held in February in Cartagena and the Group of 77 ministerial meeting to be held in Buenos Aires in March.

For this purpose, they reiterated their desire to effectively contribute so that those meetings will fully reflect the objective of coordinating and establishing the developing countries' joint negotiating position for the sixth UNCTAD meeting in Belgrade. That forum should promote the series of international negotiations that, in the UN context, should regulate international cooperation for development.

The foreign ministers agreed on the importance of the faithful fulfillment of the Panama Canal treaties and observed with approval the jurisdictional advances in thier implementation. Nevertheless, they expressed concern over the negative effects resulting from the application of discriminatory legal instruments to other aspects of the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, implementation process.

The foreign ministers stressed the significance of the bicentennial of the birth of the liberator Simon Bolivar and the opportunity it offers to strengthen friendship and promote cooperation among all Latin American peoples.

The foreign ministers of Colombia, Mexico and Venezuela expressed thanks to Panamanian President Ricardo de la Espriella and the Panamanian Government for the hospitality shown during this meeting. which they described as shighly beneficial. They also expressed thanks to the Panamanian people and authorities for the hospitality they received during their stay.

PAREDES' USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS CRITICIZED

PA090049 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 8 Jan 83 p 1A

["As of Today" column]

[Text] The national government, through President Ricardo de la Espriella, has committed itself to handling public funds with the greatest honesty and austerity. The president's promises were encouraging after it had been confirmed that corruption and inefficiency are widespread in the public administration. We as Panamanian citizesn wish that the president of the republic could make his administration one characterized by efficiency and austerity, an action that would dignify him and give prestige to his name. However, we can expect little in the way of effective realization if, while the president speaks about austerity, the National Guard chief carries out continual political activity and tours the country using the government's material and human resources in an open political campaign. The movement of the candidate, his large retinue and the large number of officials who usually accompany him in tours and meetings all over the country generate considerable expense, which is charged to the public treasury. Likewise, the well-established custom of buying sympathy with donations and out-of-budget projects hampers an efficient and rational utilization of public funds. Austerity must mean that the taxpayers' money is used in an orderly way for investments and stricly essential expenses within the limitations and consistent with procedures provided for by law. The use of official resources to support political activities -- even if they are disguised under a different name -- contradicts the policy of austerity announced by the president of the republic, destroys its creditibility, denies the promises of official impartiality in the coming elections and constitutes an intolerable load on the battered national treasury.

CANAL OFFICIALS SAID TO VIOLATE TREATY

PA070052 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 5 Jan 83 p 15

["Vox Populi" column by Luis Restrepo Rosas: "Mike Gordon's Insolence"]

[Excerpt] Beginning on 1 April 1982, what was once the Canal Zone became entirely subject to Panamanian jurisdiction the only courts, judges and police forced allowed being those of the Republic of Panama. Two recalcitrant Zonians, Fred Cotton, [director of the Panama Canal Commission's General Services Bureau] and Mike Gordon, one of his subordinates, have been disputing this fact.

They are the ones who tried to create a U.S. police force disguised as a "liaison office." They are the ones who are illegally maintaining a "corps of security guards," although the treaty allows them to have only watchmen. The members of this security crops render military honors to Cotton and Mike Gordon by standing at attention when they are present, and they have titles such as commander and others used by military organizations.

Fred Cotton and Mike Gordon run an intelligence office that is headed by a Mr Oliver and and engage in activities that are clearly prohibited by the treaty. Mike Gordon takes on the role of investigator whenever situations that fall within the jurisdiction of the National Guard or the National Department of Investigations crop up in the canal area. And, as if this were not enough, Mike Gordon tries to give instructions to the policemen at the Balboa Police Station on how they should carry out their duties in the area; he asks them to account for their actions and also requests access to official information. Mike Gordon contends that the National Guard should take instructions from the Panama Canal Commission, and that he is the Panama Canal Commission supervisor who has to guarantee that the quality and quantity of the services received are at proper levels. According to Mike Gordon, the National Guard is providing police services as if it were a contractor under the orders of the Panama Canal Commission.

We Panamanians hope that Capt Jose Teofilo Campodonico, chief of the Balboa Police Station, will put this gentlemen in his place by banning him from entering the National Guard's installations and denying him access to National Guard personnel.

EL SALVADOR

ARMED FORCES LEADERS CONDEMN CABANAS INCIDENT

PA101638 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Press communique issued by the Salvadoran Armed Forces on 9 January 1983 -- read by announcer]

[Text] The Salvadoran Armed Forces hereby report that the commanders of the various military posts met to analyze the situation at Military Detachment No 2 and reached the following conclusions:

1. This attitude is in open contradiction to the principles of discipline and obedience that must always be observed by members of the armed forces. It also constitutes a violation of the existing military code and endangers the intense efforts to achieve peace.

2. It is deplorable that such actions take place within the armed forces under current circumstances, at a time when they are heroically fighting, along with their people, to defeat subversion and international terrorism.

3. The success obtained in the defense of the country's sovereignty and the Salvadoran people is the result of the collective effort of each and every member of the armed forces, who are patriotically defending the continuing democratic process as the legitimate goal of the Salvadoran people.

4. The principle of subordination and obedience to the president of the republic and the commander in chief of the armed forces and to the rest of the high command remains unalterable within the established hierarchical order, thus reflecting the observance of the principles of legality, authority and discipline.

5. A commission will be appointed that will find a solution in accordance with the high interests of the armed institution and the Salvadoran people.

[dated] San Salvador, 9 January 1983.

[Signed] The director of the military academy, the director of CEFA [Armed Forces Studies Center], the commander armed forces of the Quartermaster Corps, the commander of the 2d Infantry Brigade, the commander of the 4th Infantry Brigade, the commander of the 6th Infantry Brigade, the commander of Military Detachment No 1, the commander of Military Detachment No 5, the commander of Military Detachment No 7, the director of the military hospital, the commander of the armed forces; arsenal, the departmental commander of La Libertad, the commander of the Third Infantry Brigade, the commander of the Fifth Infantry Brigade, the commander of the Artillery Brigade, the commander Military Detachment No 4, the commander of Military Detachment No 6, the commander of the Atlacatl Battalion, the commander of the Gen Ramon Belloso Battalion, the commander of the Atonal Battalion, the commander of the Cavalry Regiment, the commander of the National Navy, the commander of the Center of Instructions of (? Telecommunication) of the Armed Forces, the commander of the Armed Forces Commando Training Center, the commander in chief of the Training Center for Armed Forces Engineers, the National Guard director general, the Treasury Police director general and the National Police director general.

HIGH COMMAND ORDERS COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER NO 1

PA110109 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 0031 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Communique issued by the Armed Forces High Command; no date given; read by an unidentified official at the Information Secretariat of the Presidency -- live]

[Text] We have made contact with the Information Secretariat of the Presidency, and they have issued the following communique:

The armed forces high command informs the Salvadoran people that:

1. In fulfilling their duty of safeguarding respect for the constitutional mandate, which establishes that the armed forces are apolitical and essentially obedient and cannot decide on matters of policy, they have ordered the immediate compliance, without conditions, with General Order No 1 issued by the armed forces on 5 January.

2. Legal orders issued by a superior must be complied with; and whenever there are any observations to be made, the regular established channels must be used. Obedience, discipline, subordination and respect for the hierarchy are fundamental pillars in every armed institution, and its members are obliged to strictly observe them.

3. Without prejudicing the above, it has issued instructions to begin immediately a detailed study of the causes that brought about the difficult institutional situation that is being worked out with the effort, understanding and high military spirit of all members of the armed forces.

The armed forces high command trusts that the patriotism of all Salvadorans, expressed through responsible and serene attitudes, will contribute to maintain respect for the law and to preserving institutionality at this time of serious danger for the republic.

OCHOA CITES 'PROPOSALS' TO ARMY HIGH COMMAND

PA101754 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1720 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 10 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Today the Salvadoran Army high command is studying the proposals presented to an official commission yesterday by Col Sigifredo Ochoa Perez, who has been in revolt since Thursday, while the country's other military leaders have issued a document in which they reaffirm their allegiance to the president of the republic.

As for the meeting held yesterday between the rebel officers and the high command commission, neither of the two parties wished to state whether positive results were achieved.

Ochoa Perez said that a proposal had been made to the commission. He gave no details and insisted that the members of the commission are people of "recognized integrity, since they have always fought against the common enemy; Marxism-Leninism."

"Let us hope that the defense minister will understand my proposals," Ochoa added. "We want this to be resolved this very day. If my proposals are not accepted, we will remain here in Cabanas Department, albeit as dead men," he said.

For his part, General Vides Casanova -- who, according to military sources, is not serving as the chief of the delegation, since it has a joint leadership -- said that the proposals were studied by all of the armed forces commanders.

The National Guard director added that the commission had not arrived with a solution, but rather in an attempt to seek one, adding that the high command has no plans to take military action against the people of Cabanas.

In Sensuntepeque, the departmental capital, military detachment sources told ACAN-EFE that Colonel Ochoa has been meeting with his officers since early this morning.

Seeks Meeting With Garcia

PA101828 Paris AFP in Spanish 1729 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] Bogota, 10 Jan (AFP) -- Salvadoran Col Sigifredo Ochoa, who has rebelled against his superior, Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia, denied today that he wishes to become president of that Central American country. Ochoa, who granted a phone interview to the privately owned CARACOL Radio network in Bogota today, laughed heartily when a newsman asked him if he wanted to succeed President Alvaro Magana.

"No, that is not what I want. I am a soldier, not a politician," he answered, laughing. Later he explained that "all I want is to be allowed to remain with my combat unit instead of being sent abroad, because I am no diplomat, either."

The officer, who answered the newsmen's questions from Sensuntepeque, capital of Cabanas Department, in El Salvador, for 20 minutes, said: "I respect freedom of the press."

"As a military man I realize that I have failed to abide by military discipline," Colonel Ochoa said. He reiterated, however, that he will maintan his rebellious stand.

Later, he disclosed that "perhaps tomorrow, Tuesday," he will meet with Minister Garcia, to discuss a solution to the crisis created Thursday, which tends to aggravate the country's sociopolitical situation.

"I don't know why the minister wants me out of the country. I think I am in his way," Ochoa said. He answered questions cautiously, giving the impression that he is not interested in staging a coup.

"He is wrong. [Word indistinct] ministry, or worse yet, the presidency of my country. I am not after new Positions. As a soldier, all I want is to serve my people," Ochoa explained.

The officer, whose rebellion was described today as "in open contradiction to the principles of discipline and obedience," explained that "I am aware of that, but discipline also has its limits."

Colonel Ochoa sounded convinced of the need for Salvadoran military men to stay out of politics, explaining that "we must remain neutral."

"The Constitution should even ban us from voting. We in the military should not vote. That is the way to remain impartial," he asserted.

"We don't want any more military men in power," he stressed, adding that he even thinks that the defense minister need not be a military man. "I think that he could be a civilian," he commented.

Ochoa dismissed the possibility of a military attack on his garrison, indicating that he has reached a pact with other commanders to prevent a confrontation. "We don't attack each other," he asserted. "I have decided against lifting our rifles against my own army," Ochoa stressed. Later on, he said: "I would rather die" than do something like that.

A newsman asked: Can this statement be interpreted as a decision on your part to commit suicide rather than use your weapons? "No, I used the phrase in a figurative sense. I mean that I would rather be discharged. However, I don't think it is fair to abandon people who believe in you," he said.

Ochoa was confident that he will reach an agreement with General Garcia by which both would retire from the army. "That would be a Solomon-like solution," he noted, adding, "I am flexible; I hope he will be, too."

Ochoa added however, that "I am not planning to give in." According to him, willingness for dialogue cannot be taken as "a weakening of my position."

"In any crisis, the parties must give in if there is to be a solution. They can't be inflexible," he noted. Colonel Ochoa said that he and all Salvadoran militarymen "are anticommunist," but added that "we all respect both the right and the left."

Finally, he said that there are no U.S. "advisers," at least in his territory in Cabanas Department. He then said that "we Salvadoran soldiers are waging" the struggle against the communist guerrillas.

GARCIA CHARGES 'CONSPIRACY' AGAINST GOVERNMENT

PA102057 Paris AFP in Spanish 2022 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] San Salvador, 10 Jan (AFP) -- Defense Minister Gen Guillermo Garcia has charged that there is a "conspiracy" against President Alvaro Magana's government, but clarified that the attempt has been "aborted."

Garcia also noted that Col Sigifredo Ochoa is continuing his revolt in Cabanas Department, and revealed that regarding this problem that "we are waiting," ruling out "for the time being" the use of force to get Colonel Ochoa out of there.

Garcia Holds News Conference

PA110032 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 2012 GMT 10 Jan 83

[News conference held by Salvadoran Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia at 1825 GMT on 10 January at the headquarters of the Armed Forces Press Committee in San Salvador -- recorded]

[Text] Distinguished newsmen, ladies and gentlemen: It gives me satisfaction to be here today to talk with you and answer your questions about the situation now being faced by the armed forces, which of course is of great concern to our people, who are now making conjectures and are deeply worried. I have purposely refrained from making statements, instead awaiting for some result, so as to have something definite to tell you. I was also waiting for certain conclusions we are now reaching to find a satisfactory answer, to give you to transmit to our people.

I want to tell you that I am granting this news conference because I believe it can be put off no longer. It of course carries a message from the defense minister to clarify certain situation that I am sure you want to know about. However, I want to tell you that I will speak with all due respect, without offending anyone, speaking as any man in uniform or any reasonable person would, with the feelings and expression of any human being. In conclusion, I will speak with all due respect for you and for our people. I am at your service, because I believe that you are the ones who will bring forth the truth with your questions.

[Question] What are the results of the [words indistinct] at Cabanas?

[Answer] The result, for the moment, has been the opening of a waiting period. I want to state it this way because, first of all, we are going to hold a meeting to reach conclusions. Therefore, I cannot tell you the final conclusion right now.

[Question] What is the status of the talks with Ochoa?

[Answer] I believe that my previous answer replies to your question. I could not right now tell you anything definite. As you are aware, the important thing is that a commission is trying to find a solution satisfactory to reasonable people, and also in line with the critical moment our country is experiencing. Our country cannot afford the luxury of finding itself in these regrettable and embarrassing positions, which of course detract from the prestige and merit of the armed forces.

[Question] Are you going to meet with Colonel Ochoa; if so, when and where?

[Answer] We have not considered this meeting because the commission appointed for that is working on it.

[Question] Is that the same commission that was appointed yesterday?

[Answer] Yes, it is the same commission that was appointed yesterday.

[Question] The communique issued last night did not have the signatures of the commander of the air force and the commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade. Does that mean that these units support Colonel Ochoa? What are the circumstances, and what is the scope of this division?

[Answer] As you said in your question, that would be the logical conclusion, that if those two commanders did not sign it was because they did not agree with what the rest of the commanders stated.

[Question] Are you worried about the effects that this situation could have on the certification to be issued by the United States?

[Answer] Of course I am worried that this might affect the certification to be issued by the U.S. President. Of course I am. I am also worried about what it might mean to the process being conducted in our country. I believe that, undoubtedly, this might be somewhat harmful; and, as you say, it is cause for concern.

[Question] Colonel Ochoa has said that if you resign he will also resign. Are you willing to resign in order to maintain the unity of the armed forces?

[Answer] I think it depends on who is asking for the resignation. The only one who can ask me to resign is the president of the republic as commander in chief of the armed forces. The other thing is that I might make a decision like this on my own, but you as well as the people must understand that a situation like that is inconceivable.

[Question] General, you have said that there is a period of waiting in the negotiations being held. If no agreement were reached and Colonel Ochoa maintained his position of rebellion, what action would the armed forces high command take?

[Answer] I cannot tell you at this moment, but rest assured that a decision will be adopted.

[Question] Are you concerned about what effect this situation might have on guerrilla actions?

[Answer] That is a very logical deduction, which anyone can make. If we are the bulwark of the people against subversion, then at this moment we are in a regrettable and embarrassing, if we may say so, situation. I really think it grieves us that these regrettable cases arise. I believe that this situation is giving an advantage to the guerrillas. This undoubtedly affects our chances for action and results.

[Question] General, what interests would Colonel Ochoa be serving with his attitude?

[Answer] I could not say whom he is serving personally, but perhaps directly or indirectly he is serving a system. It is not my nature to be making charges or passing judgment, but that is simply a matter of deduction. You are all aware that this is not an isolated incident, that it doesn't simply mean that Colonel Ochoa has rebelled in an inconceivable way that detracts much from the prestige and image of the armed forces. No, this has been going on for several months. Some of you -- native newsmen especially or those of you who have been following the development of all these events -- will agree with me, that I have been the object of charges and accusations to discredit me and give me a bad reputation.

Perhaps -- and more than one of my comrades-in-arms have told me this -- one of the reasons has been my personal interest in many programs. I am proud and feel great satisfaction at having led, within my possibilities, along with a group of my colleagues interested in the welfare of our people, the move toward the democratization of El Salvador. Newsmen, I can tell you that Gen Guillermo Garcia feels proud and satisfied, and especially so when the process climaxed on 28 March; when a people -- freely and showing the greatest bravery a people could ever have -- proved to the world that there are brave men and women in El Salvador who risked their lives trying to find a democratic opening offered by the Free World.

Before 28 March, many people doubted that this could happen. However, the night before the elections we said, aware of the Salvadoran peoples's bravery and nature, that they would vote even under a hail of bullets. And the people voted despite the hail of bullets. My respect and admiration goes out to the Salvadoran people, who are the champions and the ones who deserve all the praise and eternal respect for their show of bravery to the entire world. And those elections were the desire of the armed forces. They were carried out against opposing currents, because there was much opposition, just as there is now to following that system.

Currently there are some who want to return to the past; they want to turn the armed forces into a means to achieve personal gain; they would lead the armed forces to feel humiliated, disrespected and unwanted by the Salvadoran people. At this time, our main pride is that if it were not for the subversive actions we, before our people, would constantly dress in this uniform, which at this time means pride and satisfaction despite some errors and faults. [sentence as heard]

But this climax has meant work, sacrifice and giving ourselves completely. We have given ourselves without conditions. This at times has meant hurting feelings, in order to put an end to things that are not fair; but this is probably the biggest satisfaction that a man in uniform can have at this time. As for me, I believe that in history this will mean something important. The Salvadorans are brave and they love peace and tranquillity. Above all, the Salvadoran people can no longer be fooled. The Salvadoran people want peace and freedom; and above all, and probably most important, is the fact that in El Salvador there must be justice to achieve peace. We are interested in justice, and because we defend this justice we are pointed at and accused in a way that I believe is not fair.

Our people deserve to be respected. Our people proudly carry in their veins and their blood the warmth inherited from our forefathers; the pride of walking with their heads held high and speaking to the people as I am doing today, in front of them with satisfaction and pride.

I tell you truly that these circumstances were foreseen. They were programmed, handled, analyzed and instituted. I have no desire for vengeance or for negative attitudes. Men are identified and judged by their actions. Personally, I have given what I could for the benefit of my armed institute that today is proud of the people that you see there -- people who without us carrying them in trucks, without us fooling them; with courage and by freely giving of themselves, have hailed the armed forces voluntarily.

When we have gathered the people to hail our soldiers, we have done so with the intentions of an institution and the intentions of a fatherland. We never did it for personal reasons. We never did it to take advantage of a position. We have given ourselves freely and we will continue to do so, within our possibilities, with errors -- we are all human; the only ones who do not make mistakes are God and those who do nothing. Those who do something are capable of making mistakes. Please forgive me for dragging this answer out, but I believe it includes something important for the Salvadoran people to know, something that is important and that the people should understand. We are not here for personal gain, but for the interests of our fatherland and for defending the Salvadoran people -- you Salvadorans who have given of yourselves, and who could probably be easily misled because of your absolute sincerity into giving of yourselves because of an error. But the people must be sure that the armed forces today feel proud of wearing the uniform and of having served a cause, the cause of the fatherland. Now, in the midst of this situation, I can repeat proudly that I have never had, nor do I now have, political commitments to anyone. I give my respects to all, and my wishes that in the future the Salvadoran nation will be able to find the path that the armed institution wishes it to find, but never giving in, never bending its head or serving interests that could be the cause of a negative situation in our country.

[Question] Has Colonel Ochoa Perez' attitude broken the military code and [words indistinct] armed forces, and does he continue in the post of detachment commander?

[Answer] This involves a legal aspect. As you will understand, we have laws and rules. A soldier must obey. Not too long ago, I mentioned a principle I learned where I went to school, at the Salvadoran military academy. It is as follows: To know how to give orders one must know how to obey. A soldier must never forget his oath. He says: I [word indistinct] if he is an officer, or I swear, if he is a cadet or soldier, on my honor to protect the integrity of the territory, defend the flag as the sacred banner of the fatherland, serve the government -- and this is the main point -- and obey at all times and under any conditions the superior giving the orders. I repeat, obey at all times and under any conditions the superior giving the orders. He who does not comply with this, I believe, does not deserve to be called a soldier. There is a military rule that has to be kept. And, trying to find the correct solution in accordance with the military institution and with the interests of all the chiefs of the armed forces who don't want violent actions and who don't want to destroy each other, we seek those paths that are within reason to reach a formal agreement, which means an exchange of ideas to find a solution. But, arising from the fact that there has been opposition to an order, we can consider that there is practically a rebellion in the lack of compliance.

[Question] According to the armed forces regulations, does he continue being commander of Detachment No 2?

[Answer] Physically, yes, because he is there. Legally, no, because he has been appointed to another office.

[Question] Could this situation bring about a court martial?

[Answer] I would prefer not to discuss this matter because, I repeat, we are trying to find a solution that will be acceptable and not use violent measures. But rest assured that we maintain our principles. If we did not do so, you who are not military but who can understand the legal situation if this were not fulfilled will know that the principle of hierarchy, authority and discipline would be broken. And if an armed institute has no authority, discipline or authority [as heard], it faces a serious problem, and this is what we are regretting at this moment.

Taking an example from your field, what would happen if a bank employee, an office worker -- let's look at it from the viewpoint of private enterprise, not the official sector -- what would happen if the private enterprise were to tell an employee at a bank, for example, that as of 1 January he would be assigned to work in La Union?

What would that employee do? He would go. In other words, he would obey the order. If he did not like it, then he would go to his boss, his superior, and would tell him: Look, I do not want to go there because of such-and-such a reason. I do not like to be near the sea. I do not like to see this or that. I beg you to assign me somewhere else. Then the boss would look into the possibility of making a change; however, the employee would not go out in the streets shouting that he has been transferred to La Union, that his boss does not like him, that his boss is jealous of him and hates him, and that is why he is not going to La Union. I think that would be ridiculous, and a situation like that is terrible in an armed institution. If he did this, what do you think the bank manager would do? He would simply fire him.

The employee might then opt for another alternative. He could then say, I am going to get together with my fellow employees to see which of them support me, and we can start shouting here so that they rescind our transfers, or have the bank manager resign because I do not want to go to La Union. Can you see how in another line of work we can clearly understand what the consequences would be?

In an armed forces -- which is now in danger, which is now struggling -- these regrettable situations serve to complicate things.

However, the most terrible thing, and this is what I want to tell you, is what is going to happen in the future? What is going to happen? Can you imagine, gentlemen, what would happen if I were no longer minister, and another minister came along? What moral authority would he have to make changes? Any other unit might act in this same way, and say: Look, I am not going. An officer could get together with the officers under him and refuse to go. And if this happened in other units, what kind of discipline would we have? Where is the principle of obedience? Soldiers obey orders, we give orders -- reasonably, of course. That is why we must try to find a reasonable solution to prevent the problem from getting more complicated and result in other consequences.

[Question] Why do you want to send Colonel Ochoa to Uruguay?

[Answer] There are several reasons, and I hope with due respect that you will understand me. These reasons are merely internal service decisions. However, I do want to tell you that the defense minister, who is the link with the commander in chief of the armed forces, has complete legal authority to make any change he deems advisable. Obviously when a change is made sometimes we make regrettable mistakes. I repeat, we all make mistakes.

However, even so, the military concept demands that whoever receives an order has to obey, except if it is something absurd, because I cannot order one of my men to shoot himself. I am sure that he would tell me that he will not obey that order, and he is right in doing so. However, if I tell one of my men that he is going to be transferred, he must obey the order; he must always show obedience, which is the basis of any armed force in the world, if not we are going to fall into a tragic situation in which everyone does as he pleases. This goes against the people's interest, especially now.

I recognize ability and aptitudes, but we must also recognize that there are echelons, chains of command and, above all, that the people want the Salvadoran Armed Forces to have discipline so as to fulfill their obligations.

[Question] What do you think prompted Colonel Ochoa to do this?

[Answer] I don't know. I tell you that I really do not know what prompted him to do this, but I am sure that there was a good motive for doing it.

[Question] Political motives?

[Answer] The way things are going, it is no longer simply a military matter. It is a strictly military matter when only military men are involved; but when they want to impose something -- and a great publicity campaign has been launched, which you can all see -- that is the product of an objective, I would say that it is more of a political matter. This is how they are trying to handle this incident. That should not be so. We, the military, should settle our problems in a purely internal military way, but never take them to the personal and political plane. That is something completely different.

[Question] General, you said before that this is not an isolated situation but that it derived from manipulations and plotting. Who are those responsible for turning this into a political issue?

[Answer] I would like to give you detailed names, but I am sure that you all know who they are. Most of the people know who is manipulating this. I am not going to go into details, but let us not fool ourselves. Salvadorans should not fool themselves. They must understand that this is a political manipulation started to hinder a process. I personally believe that we should continue in this process of democratization. We were born in democracy. We have been included in the group of nations that are in the democratic process. We must make every effort to avoid going back to that bleak past that could result in the total decay of our country. We Salvadorans should fill ourselves with courage, but a reasonable kind of courage; not a courage that is only shown around people. If I were some other kind of person I would be seeking personal support. Speaking of this, I wish to thank all those persons who have shown their willingness to help and have told me that they support me. Those who have said: We are going to organize a demonstration in support of you. No, I have told them. I am a soldier, not a politician. If I am a politician it is because I am occupying a position with political meaning, but I am not within the framework of politics. I said this before, and I maintain it. I have served no party. This is the moral authority the high command has. We can say the truth and we can also make certain statements in the broad sense of accepting things as they are. But I repeat and insist, and I tell the people, I am not asking for applause or to be exalted; no, I am asking that the Salvadorans think, that they don't allow themselves to be fooled, that they see the reality of this thing that aborted, that exploded before it was meant to, and that has been brewing for the past few months and taking a certain turn. That is why I repeat: What I ask of the Salvadorans is that they not let themselves be fooled.

I ask the Salvadorans to meditate and not let their democratization process be taken from them, so the next elections can be completely free and you Salvadorans can choose freely and not under pressure; so we don't return to that terrible past that has meant so much decay for our country.

[Question] General, the transfers in other commands, such as Colonel [words indistinct]

[Answer] No. I can tell you quite absolutely that they are all routine changes within services.

[Question] General, it was said at one time that these changes were a kind of coup within the army, and that with these changes certain people were being removed from important positions. Could these be the antecedents you mentioned as [words indistinct]

[Answer] When you asked me who the responsible persons were, I told you that you all know who they are. Right now I can only tell you that, yes, you already know who they are; but I would not like to fall into the same practice of accusations, slanders and pointing out people, because I believe that this is not the correct way. You have to play the game, but with high standards of courtesy and with standards that show responsibility.

When I was a child, I was taught something that I have never forgotten; if they throw mud at you don't throw mud back, because if you do you have to dirty yourself.

[Question] Have you agreed on a date for meetings for the negotiations?

[Answer] There are no negotiations. It will be for an explanation. The day and the hour have been set, but for obvious reasons I cannot give you this information.

[Question] Have you met with Colonels Blandon and Bustillo to discuss the conclusion they have reached regarding this problem?

[Answer] I have met with them and with all the commanders. I have spoken to all the commanders, and I have asked that when they give their views they do so with the utmost sincerity, and I would like to add that Colonel Bustillo and Colonel Blandon have stated their views with the utmost sincerity.

[Question] General, there is a very important aspect I wish to ask you about. You have just mentioned a series of actions that the people should adopt to achieve an understanding; but within the armed forces, this act of rebellion is against the armed forces regulations. What could the final result of this rebellion staged by Colonel Ochoa be?

[Answer] The result, in regards to opinion and understanding, as you have stated it, is that there has been absolute repudiation for this action, for this inconceivable action. I am sure that every man who is a member of the institution and who accepts the profession as one strictly of honor and courage has to reject this action, which is against everything that could be considered justifiable within the armed forces.

[Question] What is your opinion regarding Colonel Ochoa's accusations involving you in political attacks? He mentioned this on two occasions, especially when he mentioned the case of Colonel Jarquin Soto.

[Answer] This is absurd and stupid. Excuse me. To broaden my answer: I have been one of the men who has fought against the use of force, and this is why I am singled out today, because I have fought against this, because I do not agree with violent attitudes to solve problems.

This attitude today has earned me slanderous accusations such as the one you have just mentioned.

[Question] From your statements we have gathered that there definitely will be no negotiations with Ochoa, and that he must obey his orders.

[Answer] It seems that little word negotiations is hard for you to say [as heard], but I do want to say that this has nothing to do with a negotiation. We are trying to show that a serious violation has been committed, and it has to be corrected. We do not wish to correct this violation with violent measures, but through reasoning.

[Question] General, regarding your answer, I have another question. With this type of observations, and the talks being held with Colonel Ochoa trying to make him understand his mistake, isn't the armed forces demonstrating internal weakness?

[Answer] I dont' believe so. You know why? Because with the absolute support given to me as defense minister, if I were unreasonable I would simply say that we would solve this through force. But I ask myself if this isn't what others want so as to achieve greater chances of reaching their objectives. We then have to use reason; and in this case, although it may seem like a sign of weakness, I assure you that we are showing strength because we are showing that reason is much stronger, and in my opinion this is the feeling of all the chiefs and officers. I believe it is time to put all personal feelings to one side, and this is not a demonstration of support for General Garcia or other high-ranking officers, but support for the armed institution. This is what should prevail, because if the armed forces should fail at this time I don't know what kind of serious problems we would have in the near future.

[Question] General, does this mean that Colonel Ochoa will have to go to Uruguay?

[Answer] He must obey his orders. If he does not obey this order, then we will be facing a far more serious problem than the one we are currently facing. All institutionality would be broken, and I really don't know what would happen in the future when another change was made and the appointed person decided not to obey the order issued by his superior.

I wish to tell you -- because there are many people who say, well, why the change? -- that there have been other changes in which there was probably a misapprehension. However, these changes were corrected. But these corrections were done by legal means. These rectifications were made for soldiers, and it was not the first time we had made rectifications. These men knew that they were soldiers, and they were aware that they had a future as military men, and they thought of the institution. They obeyed the order, and later the correction was made. I believe that it is only human to make mistakes and correct them. But to do something like this is something else. From this we gather that this is not a military action. This obeys another order. An order against the minister whom they want to replace no matter what. Personally, I don't want you to believe that I am grabbing on to the ministry, no; but I have the moral and professional obligation to defend my personal condition no matter how bad the slander, criticism and singling out that is done in an absurd manner may hurt. These words are said as if all they wished to achieve was to undermine my prestige. This hurts. This hurts me. But what can I do? There is freedom. This freedom I can revoke with force, but I have not done so on purpose. They have the freedom, and they have said many things. They have said absurd things.

That governor -- I don't know why you did not ask me about this -- he said that I am Ochoa's enemy becuase I have a friend that has some cows and wanted some loan or something like that, and because the loan was not granted I got mad.

I wasn't born yesterday; I don't act like that. See how low all this has gone. This is intended to hurt. But you can be sure that for a man like me, and I am sure all of you understand, what matters is what you have inside you; a clean conscience and knowing that one has sacrificed not for personal interests -- because I have never had personal ambitions, and I confirm this today -- but for the interests of my people, to whom I have given myself with dedication, not to benefit from my people but for my people to benefit from me.

[Question] General Garcia, you have practically charged [words indistinct] coup d'etat?

[Answer] I have always said that reporters are very intelligent, and you have reached the correct conclusions from what I have implied without saying it. I want to tell you that when I spoke of something that aborted, I can confirm it. It is something that has been in planning for months, and the people know it. All those publications, those statements, all that has been said about me -- I have even been accused of corruption. You know that all officials, anyone holding a position is exposed to being singled out in this manner; and I, well, I just take things as they come. It does hurt, and [word indistinct] but rest assured that the attitude is not only protrayed in what is said but what is done. I have a clean conscience and an absolute feeling of calm as far as all the slander is concerned.

[Question] During the meeting you had with U.S. Ambassador Deane Hinton, what did he tell you, and what is the U.S. stand in view of the problem?

[Answer] I have met with the U.S. ambassador to discuss other matters, and of course he has mentioned a deep concern for this unfortunate tragedy we are experiencing. Regarding the U.S. stand, I believe I should not be the one to express it, because it could be a mistake. The United States knows what it can do and what it is doing. But they are viewing this serious situation with special interest.

[Question] What is President Magana's opinion as commander in chief?

[Answer] As commander in chief of the armed forces, the president has told me that he will issue, today I believe, a statement giving his opinion. Of course, I am sure that he, as commander in chief of the armed forces, has to make a statement with a legal character, which is what is called for at this time. But I am not aware of his position. According to what he told me, he will make his statement today.

[Question] Is this alleged coup directed against the government, including the president, or just against you?

[Answer] I can't say, but against me, I am very sure of that; but probably also against others.

[Question] [Short break in transmission] to solve Mr Ochoa's problem, so that he will desist from his rebellious attitude.

[Answer] Not exactly with a given time limit but within a reasonable period of time. That undoubtedly will evolve in the manner in which we can present or deal with this deplorable problem. However, I would say that we are not working within a defined period of time. You, the civilians, are often more military than we ourselves; one has to recognize this. I am certain that many Salvadorans are saying: Let's get this done now, in an absolute manner, right now. We are also in a position to do this, but that is not possible for a solution at this moment.

[Question] What is the situation of the guerrilla warfare in [words indistinct] any offensive?

[Answer] Yes, there have been. In Chalatenango and even in Cabanas Department there was subversive action yesterday; not full action but preparatory action. I want to say that every necessary measure has been taken to try to counteract this. You can see how we have one problem and then others appear.

[Question] Can you tell me whether the commanders of the 1st Infantry Brigade and the Salvadoran Air Force are maintaining their insubordination against the armed forces high command, and whether their position means that they are at the same level as the commander of the Detachment No 2 in Sensuntepeque?

[Answer] I do not believe that they are at any level, because that is a very open attitude of rebellion, theirs, and principally that of the commander of the air force. [as heard] I want to say that he also deserves my respect; that he is holding a position based on his analysis and based on elements of judgment that they have. It would also be appropriate if we could analyze them. However, I believe [that their's] is different from that of the position adopted in Sensuntepeque.

[Question] General, in the last few days there have been restrictions on travel to Sensuntepeque. This closing of the entry to Sensuntepeque, especially for us journalists -- was it ordered by the General Staff of the armed forces high command as part of the measures adopted (?based on the decisions made) by Colonel Ochoa?

[Answer] I couldn't say at this moment where this order came from, but I want to say that this has not been complete and absolute. Proof of this is that you were there and experienced no problems. You were allowed to go there. Therefore, I attach no great importance to the fact that the order was or was not issued by the General Staff.

[Question] Regarding the occupation of Tejutla by the guerrillas, it has been said that more than 20 soldiers have been (?shot).

[Answer] There was a strong clash yesterday in Tejutla, which resulted in a few soldiers being killed and a few wounded. I want to say that at this moment we have taken measures in this regard, and that an operation is right now under way in Chalatenango Department.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] I couldn't tell you, I don't have the complete information right now.

[Question] (?It was reported) that a grenade exploded in San Vicente [words indistinct] results according to the source, results up to 0600 [words indistinct] did not foresee [words indistinct] military supplies to deal with this kind of problem [words indistinct].

[Answer] Measures have been adopted, and perhaps for this reason there have been no more of these accidents to deplore. However, I can say that efforts are being made to prevent such deplorable accidents.

[Question] Regarding the fact that [words indistinct] the dam, have there been no measures taken to act directly against them?

[Answer] I want to say here publicly that the dams have security at this time.

[Question] From the viewpoint of the conduct of the war, what does the crisis that the armed forces is experiencing at this time mean? Can it prevent the carrying out of planned actions? Can it result in the guerrillas carrying out wider and more effective actions?

[Answer] Even with our problem, I want to say that we are prepared to counteract any action that the subversion can carry out at this time, We have provided for this, and we are prepared to do this.

[Question] (?What can be done about the guerrilla actions in Cabanas Department?)

[Answer] Different courses of action can be taken by the General Staff to carry out operations anywhere in our country.

[Question] General, can you say with certainty whether or not there are possibilities of military action being taken against Colonel Ochoa if there is no alternative?

[Answer] I believe that you have posed the final question with regard to action. It is difficult to foresee, but I want to say that up to this moment we have not issued any order, nor do I believe that we are going to give an order to that effect, to solve the problem with violence. We are making every possible effort to come up with a joint understanding, one that every soldier deserves who knows what it means to be a real soldier.

Well, I thank you very much for your time. I want to tell you with complete sincerity to have confidence in the armed forces to solve even these grave problems that detract from the image of any armed force and cause great concern for our people. Let the people be assured that we are doing everything humanly possible to solve this problem. Thank you.

REACTIONS IN CABANAS DEPARTMENT TO OCHOA ACTIONS

Military Units Support Ochoa

PA071545 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0946 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] El Salvador, 7 Jan (EFE) -- Lt Col Sigifredo Ochoa Perez told EFE early this morning that several military units have announced their support for his detachment's rebellion in Cabanas Department against Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia.

"Several special counterinsurgency battalions and air force units are on our side and we believe that we will obtain the armed force's moral support and will thus not be attacked," Ochoa Perez said on the phone. The Cabanas Detachment commander added that no special troop movements have been noticed around the department so far.

The officers and troops under Ochoa Perez' command are still in a state of rebellion against the order transferring Ochoa Perez to the Salvadoran Embassy in Uruguay as military attache and they are demanding General Garcia's resignation.

According to Ochoa Perez, he has received no communication from the defense minister so far. "This," he added, "is evidence of his arrogance."

According to Ochoa, only a spokesman of the Armed Forces Press Committee (Coprefa) has contacted him, asking him to say nothing about this case to the local media. Telecommunications between the capital and the commanding office in Cabanas were still open as of 0100 (0700 GMT).

The commander of the army detachment in Morazan Department, Lt Col Acevedo, said when questioned by EFE about the uprising in Cabanas that he knew nothing about the situation and that, at any rate, "that is his problem," referring to Ochoa Perez. It was unofficially reported in this capital that the armed forces high command has been meeting since last night to review the situation, but the government has issued no statement thus far.

Previously, in a statement made to EFE by telephone, Lt Col Sigifredo Ochoa Perez, the commander at Cabanas, said that he demanded the resignation of Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia, whom he accused of being the regime's "strong man" and of having become "a petty dictator."

Ochoa Perez said that he has the support of his 1,200 troops and that he expects other detachments and other Salvadoran Army corps to support him as well.

The lieutenant colonel said that the armed forces' order of 31 December demanded his transfer as military attache to the Salvadoran Embassy in Uraguay, a decision that he described as "unfair" because, he said, he had managed to "become integrated with the population of Cabanas."

He added that his action is not a coup d'etat and said that it was his troops and officers who asked him to remain at his post and rise against the Defense Ministry. Cabanas is located in El Salvador's north-central area and has 170,000 inhabitants.

Support by Civilian Authorities

PA071812 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1605 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] It was revealed to members of the national and international press this morning that Lt Col Sigifredo Ochoa Perez has received support from a group of civilian authorities who visited him in his office. The Cabanas Department Council of Authorities also issued a communique noting some of the reasons for its decision to support Colonel Ochoa, which included the following, among others:

1. Colonel Ochoa's ability to keep peace in the department.

2. His relocation of all refugees and his provision of transportation, timber and the tools required for them to build houses, in addition to seed and food.

3. His decisive support for the programs being implemented by [word indistinct] institutions.

4. His overall cooperation with the educational centers.

Therefore, the council agrees: A) To ask the commanding general of the armed forces, the defense and public security minister and the armed forces chief of staff to reconsider the case, so that Col Sigifredo Ochoa Perez may continue in his post; B) to offer its general support to Colonel Ochoa in [words indistinct]; D) to urge the inhabitants of Cabanas Department to express their support for the officer; and E) To declare itself in permanent session, to await a favorable response to its request.

Parties Express Support

PA090435 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0326 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Report by Raul Beltran]

[Text] The leaders of the majority political parties of the Constituent Assembly -- the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] the National Conciliation Party, PCN; and the Nationalist Republican Alliance, Arena -- should heed the request of their sympathizers and leaders of Cabanas Department. This is stated in a communique this afternoon.

The political parties in Cabanas Department, led by the PDC, the PCN and Arena -- I repeat, their leaders in Cabanas Department -- today decided to give their unconditional support [to Ochoa] and to ask the top leadership of these three parties in San Salvador to intercede before the commander in chief of the armed forces, President Alvaro Magana, so that he, as commander in chief of the armed forces, will revoke the order to send the command of the Sensuntepeque Battalion to Uruguay as military attache.

The decision of the political parties is to unite in a single bloc to support 40-year-old Col Sigifredo Ochoa Perez to the end. At the same time, they state that their position in this regard is to help, through their own initiative, find an immediate solution so that justice will be done in this case. In their communique they stress the impartiality and ability that Colonel Ochoa Perez has shown that qualify him to hold his post. They say that he has taken adequate measures to reestablish order throughout this department, where -- thanks to his timely action -- one can live in peace.

In their communique, the leaders and sympathizers of the aforementioned parties also support the statement issued yesterday by the Council of Authorities of Cabanas Department. The PDC, PCN and Arena in Sensuntepeque say it would be a mistake to change the man who knows the problem and has the solution in his hands with regard to the situation that Cabanas Department has experienced for many years.

This statement completely changes the outlook regarding the rebellion of Col Sigifredo Ochoa Perez. The PCN, PDC and Arena of Cabanas Department will present this urgent request to the top leaders of their parties in the capital so that they will intercede before the Salvadoran president, and the situation caused by Colonel Ochoa will be definitely solved.

So far, the government house continues to maintain absolute silence on the case, and it has been learned that a high-level meeting is currently being held in which the commander in chief of the armed forces, Albaro Magana, and the armed forces high command are participating.

Governor's Communique

PA091141 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0040 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Communique No 1 of the Political Governor's Office and the mayors of the nine municipalities of Cabanas Department; date not specified; read by an unidentified person at the Governor's Office in Sensuntepeque -- live]

[Text] In the face of the intransigence of the defense minister [words indistinct] the departmental command of Cabanas, Col Sigifredo Ochoa Perez, to another post that he has rejected in order not to abandon his duties as a soldier [words indistinct].

Aware of the false charges made against him; aware that he is an honest and courageous officer who faithfully fulfills his duties, a responsible father, a noble and gentlemanly person, a man who loyally fulfills the military laws, a man who is more than a chief and is a friend to his soldiers [words indistinct] toward his troops; aware that he is accused of obtaining fraudulent funds [words indistinct] the falsehood of such an accusation, and of having promoted the sale of [word indistinct] in our respective municipalities; aware of the satisfaction given by the generous reply of the various sectors of the community; aware that he is accused of being a member of a specific political party, something that is false because he has impartially cooperated with all the political sectors of the department; [words indistinct] to combat subversion, vandalism, corruption and the search for democratization, pacification and the development of his department; we have made a decision.

We will: 1. Join in the unanimous request of the people, who are asking Col Sigifredo Ochoa Perez to continue in his post as departmental commander. [Signed] The departmental political governor and the mayors of the nine municipalities of Cabanas; Sensuntepeque, Ilobasco, San Isidro, Tejutepeque, Jutiapa, Cinquera, Villa Dolores, Villa Victoria, Guacotecti

PDC LEADER URGES SOLUTION OF CABANAS REBELLION

PA082334 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2255 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Julio Adolfo Rey Prendes, secretary general of the Salvadoran Christian Democratic Party [PDC], told ACAN-EFE today that the military rebellion in the Cabanas command coincides with the extreme rightwing's desire to remove Defense Minister Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia from power. Rey Prendes said that the problem that has emerged in Cabanas Department is an ideological one in the armed forces, even though it has been presented as the troops' discontent over the transfer of their commander, Sigifredo Ochoa Perez, to the Salvadoran Embassy in Uruguay. Lt Col Ochoa Perez has publicly demanded General Garcia's resignation as defense minister; and, according to aides, he has so far received the support of officers of the air force, the Atonal Battalion specialized in counterinsurgency, the National Guard and the San Miguel detachment.

The PDC leader indicated that although it cannot be said for sure that Ochoa Perez and the commanders who support him are of the extreme right, "their demand coincides with the position of that sector, since form the beginning there has been clear alienation between Garcia and the president of the National Constituent Assembly," Roberto d'Aubuisson, leader of the Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena). Rey Prendes stressed that there have even been attempts in the assembly to call the defense minister for questioning, "and there have been very harsh criticisms of the minister by Arena officials."

"This might only be a coincidence of interests, but it causes a serious problem to the country, where the armed forces have been gaining awareness of the need to struggle more on the side of the people and in favor of democracy, justice and structural changes," Rey Prendes said. He added that an ideological struggle within the army provoked the October 1979 coup d'etat, "due to the armed institution's alienation from the people and the defense of the interests of the oligarchy."

"These ideological confrontations should not lead to military postures, since there should naturally be discipline in the armed forces. However, the situation exists, and the struggle could be such that the institution would readopt its former positions and abandon its current one," Rey Prendes added. The PDC secretary indicated that the Cabanas military rebellion "is an example that can lead to other subsequent actions that could gradually weaken the structure of the armed forces. Therefore, this situation must be solved as soon as possible."

PDC Communique on Dispute

PA110139 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 0005 GMT 11 Jan 83

[Communique issued by the Political Committee of the Christian Democratic Party on 10 January; read by unidentified official -- recorded]

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party, PDC, in view of the refusal to obey the order issued by the Defense Ministry concerning the transfer of Col Sigifredo Ochoa Perez from his position as Cabanas departmental commander, and especially in view of the communique issued by the directors of the political parties in that department supporting the attitude taken by the said commander, states its position regarding this matter to the Salvadoran people.

1. It understands the local reaction in favor of Col Sigifredo Ochoa Perez, since this is due to the way he has fulfilled his duties.

2. It regrets that the Cabanas departmental political party directors have become involved in this military matter in that department.

3. It instructs all of its members and leaders in Cabanas Department to refrain from expressing their political support in matters of a military nature.

4. It calls on the armed forces to find, as soon as possible, a joint solution that will guarantee the peace and tranquillity of the nation.

For social justice within a regime of authentic democracy, [signed] Christian Democratic Party Political Committee

LATE REPORT: MAGANA STATEMENT BACKS GARCIA

PA111244 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0825 GMT 11 Jan 83

[By Bernd Debusmann]

[Excerpts] San Salvador, 11 Jan (LATIN-REUTER) -- Last night President Alvaro Magana described the military rebellion in northern El Salvador as a serious threat to El Salvador and ordered Col Sigifredo Ochoa, leader of the rebel garrison, to obey the Defense Ministry's instructions.

In his first public reaction to the confrontation between General Garcia and General Ochoa, commander of the northern Department of Cabanas, the Salvadoran president issued a statement that leaves no doubt about his support for the defense minister, even though neither Garcia nor his subordinate were directly mentioned by name.

Magana is the commander in chief of the Salvadoran military forces. In his statement, he noted that "the general command of the armed forces -- totalling 24,000 men -- has ordered immediate and unconditional compliance with General Order No 1 issued on 5 January." This was a reference to a series of appointments and transfers that included Colonel Ochoa's transfer to Montevideo as military attache in the Salvadoran Embassy in Uruguay.

The presidential statement said that "obedience, discipline, subordination and respect for hierarchy are essential pillars of any armed institute and its members are dutybound to strict observance (of those principles)." The statement promised an exhaustive study of what it described as an anomalous situation and said that "the general command... to the maintenance of the law at this moment of serious danger for the republic."

CHIEF OF STAFF CONSIDERS CASUALTIES, MORALE

PA100528 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 1 Jan 83 pp 3, 7

[Text] Col Rafael Flores Lima, armed forces chief of staff, has made a general evaluation of the military situation at the end of 1982. He said that armed forces morale is higher than ever, and that therefore they have been able to counteract subversive activity.

Flores Lima stressed that in order to attain this degree of morale, the armed forces have had to overcome many difficult situations since 10 January 1981, suffering 1,300 dead enlisted men and officers and about 2,500 wounded, 85 percent of whom have already returned to their units. Only a very small number have been unable to resume their military duties.

He said that social services have improved considerably, especially in regard to cases of trauma. He also pointed out the generosity displayed by the Salvadoran people toward the armed forces units, even in the most outlying areas of the country. He said that expressions of sympathy and friendship have been received in the most remote areas. He said that during the holidary season there had been expressions of sympathy ranging from presents to invitations to share in festivities.

CIVIC MOVEMENT OPPOSES U.S. SENATORS' VISIT

PA100050 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 8 Jan 83 pp 5, 23

[Text] The Salvadoran Civic Movement [MCS], which has been formed in San Salvador, said yesterday that the announced visit of two U.S. senators "who have a grudge" against El Salvador "and support the leftist groups that have been waging a cruel war against our people for more than 3 years," has caused displeasure here.

The MCS added that these senators are John Glenn and Christopher Dodd, who are expected in mid-month, "supposedly to verify the human rights situation, because at the end of this month President Reagan's administration must submit a new certification about this."

The MCS declared that on the basis of this certification, President Reagan will be able to continue supplying economic and military aid to our country.

The sources added that this is the explanation for the senators' visit. We are well aware of their leftist leanings, they said. They make it appear that they are coming to El Salvador to gather evidence to the effect that no progress has been made in respect for human rights, in order to submit this "testimony" and thus block U.S. aid to El Salvador. They don't care whether they make President Reagan look like a "liar," even though he has the best good will toward our country, as he has proved with previous certifications.

The MCS said that senators like this, and other personalities like "religious leader" John MacWorth who come to El Salvador, do not bother to visit the refugee camps in various parts of the country, where thousands of women, children and old men have been forced to flee their homes and work places by the terrorist guerrilla threat.

Instead, these visitors prefer to meet with people who are in favor of the Revolutionary Democratic Movement, FDR, and its armed faction, the FMLN. When they return to their countries these gentlemen prepare completely distorted and prejudicial statements which the leftist U.S. press publishes prominently.

The MCS recalled one of the last visits by Senator Dodd, who said on returning to the United States that on the way from the airport to San Salvador he had seen "bodies strewn every which way," but that he had not been allowed to stop to find out what it was all about, giving the impression that they were victims of "army repression."

With such records, the group said, the country's patriotic organizations should declare the senators persona non grata.

Finally, it asserted that "it is disgraceful for senators like those we mentioned and for others who are coming for the same purpose to abuse in this way the hospitality that the Salvadoran people always extend to foreign visitors." "It is a bloody mockery for them to ignore the pain, the suffering and the thousands of innocent victims of the inhuman attacks of the terrorist groups, to whom they give their open support."

NICARAGUA

NONALIGNED MOVEMENT DELEGATIONS COME FOR MEETING

Cuban Foreign Minister's Remarks

PA090343 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1811 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] Managua, 8 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- On arriving in this capital today, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca stated that "it is a good sign that the United States is concerned over the resolutions that the nonaligned countries might adopt at the Managua meeting" to be held next week. He added that "just as it has happened before during the 22 years of the movement, here, too, those responsible for Latin American problems will be condemned."

The Cuban foreign minister said that "the United States is concerned because it is -- and its concern so indicates -- guilty and the cause of most of the important problems affecting the peoples of Latin America."

The Cuban foreign minister stressed that a detailed analysis of the situation of the Latin American countries is expected to be carried out at the Managua meeting, and that the solidarity of these countries with the Central American and Caribbean countries' struggle to defend their gains and to advance toward the consolidation of their true independence will be expressed.

He added that "what is more important, the serious Central American situation, the destabilization plans, the constant aggressions against Nicaragua and the efforts to achieve a solution in El Salvador will have to be discussed."

The Cuban foreign minister pointed out that, in addition, "the several proposals presented by the Salvadoran patriots, the Mexican-Venezuelan peace proposal, as well as the one presented by France and Mexico will be analyzed to promote negotiations that will put an end to the current situation in El Salvador."

In connection with the Malvinas issue, the Cuban foreign minister stated that those islands "are still a British colony, and Argentine sovereignty in that territory is still unrecognized and unrespected. The Argentine people's right to sovereignty over the islands will be supported."

Malmierca underlined that "U.S. complicity and participation in the colonialist support for Great Britain is obvious." Finally, he said that in the meeting "some measures should be taken to implement the resolutions adopted."

Foreign Minister Malmierca arrived in Managua accompanied by Vice Minister Ricardo Alarcon. Both will participate in the Fifth Special Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Nonaligned Countries Movement.

TANJUG Report

LD101002 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0918 GMT 10 Jan 83

["Pool" item]

[Text] Managua, Jan 10 (TANJUG) -- Special meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Nonaligned Countries Movement opened today, Monday, in Managua with over a hundred delegations attending. This is the first meeting the Nonaligned Movement devoted only to Latin American problems, especially to the situation in Central America.

Latin America still suffers from neocolonial dependence while there are strongly expressed aspirations towards independence and overcoming social and economic injustice.

The Yugoslav delegation in Managua is headed by Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Lazar Mojsov.

Today and tomorrow the Coordinating Bureau will analyze a resolution which should cover the stands and initiatives by the nonaligned concerning all current questions of Central and South America. The ministers are to meet on Wednesday, while the final resolution will be voted on Thursday.

The meeting in Managua was called last summer at the Havana preparatory meeting for the nonaligned summit. It was called in the first place for the purpose of extending (?support) to Nicaragua which had found itself under a strong foreign pressure intended to induce changes in its internal and foreign political course.

Addresses Scheduled

PA101441 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 4 Jan 83 p 1

[Excerpt] When the meeting of the Nonaligned Movement opens as 1000 on 12 January, Commander of the Revolution Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the JGRN [Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction] will officially greet the attending delegations in his role as chief of state.

Following Commander Ortega's address, the president of the UN Assembly will speak. Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca will deliver the next address. Cuba is the current president of the Nonaligned Movement.

A popular festival to salute the visitors will be held at the aquatic facilities in Tiscapa, with the participation of 120 national artists. At this event, guerrilla Commander Leticia Herrera will deliver an address on behalf of our country's mass organizations.

That evening, the Nicaraguan Government will host an official reception for the delegations attending this historic nonaligned meeting in our country. The reception will be held in the Jiloa resort, which has been provided with the necessary facilities.

Summary of Agenda

PA101554 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 10 Jan 83 p 1

[Text] Yesterday the AGENCIA NUEVA NICARAGUA released a brief summary of the major topics on the agenda for the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau meeting scheduled to open today in Managua. Here are the details released by the news agency:

1. Latin America's economic problems reflect its difficult situation. In 1980, ts foreign debt totaled $150 million. While the prices of Latin America's exports are declining, the cost of producing its raw materials continues to rise.

2. Central America's military crisis has caused 22,000 dead in Guatemala alone during the 11 months of Gen Efrain Rios Montt's administration. Most of the dead are Indians killed in the course of actions staged by the paramilitary groups and the army in their zeal to wipe out the guerrillas.

3. The intensifying armed struggle in El Salvador, with the United States supporting the army in its confrontation with the FMLN guerrillas, left a death toll of 5,000 last year. The guerrilla movement is increasing its control over various areas, but like the army it lacks the necessary strength to dominate the situation.

4. The actions carried out by the former Somozist guardsmen, currently receiving military aid from the CIA -- a fact that has already been admitted -- led to the killing of over 700 people last year. Of these, 300 were Nicaraguan civilians and soldiers and 411 were counterrevolutionaries.

5. The Mexican-Venezuelan peace proposal, later endorsed by the Colombian and Panamanian foreign ministers and calling for peace negotiations between Honduras and Nicaragua has not been received as expected. Last week, Nicaragua urged the United States to conduct unconditional negotiations, holding the United States responsible for the crimes committed, due to the aid that it provides to the Somozists.

6. The problems originating with the Somozist bands might lead to a confrontation between Honduras and Nicaragua. Honduras, which over the past few months has increased its military capacity with U.S. aid, has been warned by Nicaragua that it is reaching the limit of its patience due to the support given to the Somozists' actions.

Delegations Arrive

PA101643 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2155 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] Managua, 9 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- A total of 103 delegations have confirmed their participation in the fifth special ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned Countries Movement Coordinating Bureau. The meeting will begin in Managua on Monday.

A Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry source reported that of the 103 delegations that have confirmed their participation in the meeting, 77 are delegations of nonaligned member countries.

More than 20 of the 103 delegations are already in Managua to begin discussions on the Latin American and Caribbean problems at the Cesar Augusto Silva Convention Center on the outskirts of southern Managua.

Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and Surinamese Foreign Minister Harvey Naarendorp were the first to arrive in Managua on Saturday and to speak with Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto.

Argentine Foreign Minister Juan Ramon Aguirre Lanari is also here as well as the vice foreign ministers of Cuba, Ricardo Alarcon; Vietnam, Von Dong Giang; and the DPRK, Kim Chung-il. Victor Flores Olea, Mexican under secretary for foreign affairs, is also present.

The source said that the Managua meeting "will be larger, as far as participating delegations is concerned, than the previous meetings held in Kuwait and Nicosia last year to discuss the Palestinian subject."

Among other topics, the Managua meeting will discuss the worsening of the political situation in Central America, a Latin America region where, according to Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, "there is the greatest danger of U.S. intervention." It is expected that this meeting will issue recommendations and proposals capable of influencing the solution of the urgent Latin American problems, especially those of Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Tomorrow, Monday, the experts of the Nonaligned Countries Movement will begin a detailed analysis of the overall Latin American problems in order to outline the declaration that will be issued here at the end of this meeting which is to prepare the way for another summit meeting. The summit is scheduled for March in New Delhi, and it will be at the level of chiefs of state. The draft of a "Managua communique" proposed by Nicaragua has already begun to circulate among the delegates to the fifth preparatory meeting. The draft has awakened "the concern" of the U.S. State Department.

Meeting Opens

PA101817 Paris AFP in Spanish 1806 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] Managua, 10 Jan (AFP) -- The ministerial conference of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries, which will examine the situation prevailing in Latin America and the Caribbean, opened in Managua at 1100 (1700 GMT) today with a meeting of experts that will last for 48 hours. During this period, the experts -- officials or diplomats -- will prepare a draft final communique that will be submitted to the ministers attending the conference that begins on Wednesday.

D'ESCOTO SENDS PROTEST NOTE TO COSTA RICA

PA101934 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman sent a protest note to Costa Rican Foreign Minister Fernando Volio Jimenez today as a result of two occasions -- 1850 on 5 January and 1800 on 7 January -- on which the transmissions of the Rivas Department relay station for Nicaraguan television Channel 2 were interfered with by the airing of appeals by counterrevolutionary Eden Pastora Gomez.

The protest note added that it has been established that this interference originated in Costa Rican territory, where traitor Pastora lives in political asylum. It has been more specifically established that they came from the (El Amo) ranch in La Cruz, owned by (Luis Alberto Gallegos), where the antenna used to transmit the interfering signal is located.

The Foreign Ministry protest note also charges that a news conference was held in San Jose on 7 January at which counterrevolutionary Francisco Fiallos -- along with individuals Alfonso Robelo and Brooklyn Rivera, members of the counterrevolutionary organization known as the Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, Arde -- made several calls for armed struggle against Nicaragua and made a number of statements slandering and threatening the Nicaraguan Government and the Sandinist people's revolution.

This new use of Costa Rican territory to promote and incite bloodshed and the destabilization of our country constitutes cause for the deepest and most serious concern for Nicaragua, since it could compromise Costa Rica's neutrality in the current Central American crisis, Foreign Minister d'Escoto's protest note states.

HAVANA CITES GOVERNMENT PROTEST NOTE TO SHULTZ

PA101945 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government charged on Saturday that counterrevolutionary bands operating from Honduran territory killed two farm workers. This occurred thanks to the help and sponsorship that the United States gives to these groups.

An official note sent to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz states that the band, made up of approximately 40 counterrevolutionaries, savagely and inhumanly killed the two workers who were picking coffee in Jinotega Department.

The document, signed by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto, stressed that again the Sandisnist revolution presents its most vigorous protest because of these criminal actions, which are a direct consequence of the aggressive U.S. policy.

FORMER AMBASSADOR FIALLOS JOINS ARDE

PA072255 Paris AFP in Spanish 1915 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] San Jose, 7 Jan (AFP) -- Francisco Fiallos, former Nicaraguan ambassador to Washington, has announced his decision to join the opposition Democratic Revolutionary Alliance, Arde, following his resignation in December as the representative of the Sandinist government in the U.S. capital. During a press conference held today in San Jose, Fiallos said that Arde is "the only movement that truly represents the real ideals of the Nicaraguan revolution," and later stated that in Nicaragua "there is no longer political space for the opposition."

Fiallos made his statement together with Eden Pastora of the Sandino Revolutionary Front'; Alfonso Robelo, president of the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement; and Brooklyn Rivera of the Misurasata [Miskito, Sumu, Rama, Sandinist Unity] Indian organization.

Besides these three organizations, Arde is made up by the UDN-FRN [Nicaraguan Democratic Union-Revolutionary Armed Forces of Nicaragua], which is led by Fernando Chamorro.

The former Nicaraguan ambassador to Washington made a call to the people of Nicaragua for them "to prepare for the struggle," and added that "if in the past the people were capable of shaking the Somoza reactionary tyranny, now they will throw out the totalitarian tyranny" of the current Nicaraguan rulers.

He also made a call for unity among all the groups that oppose the Nicaraguan Government, with the exclusion of the former Somoza guards, "with whom we don't have and will never have a dialogue."

Fiallos also urged the Nicaraguan Government Junta and the Sandinist front National Directorate "to accept our constant offers for peace and dialogue and not to reply to them with insults, slander and lies."

He said that probably "this will be the last call to dialogue" we make to the Nicaraguan Government asking them "not to impose a war on the Nicaraguan people."

In conclusion, Fiallos called on all international groups that visit Nicaragua to learn the true situation experienced by the people, who are "without freedom and without democracy."

Fiallos said that he had resigned his diplomatic position because "I cannot represent a government that will not allow me freely to express my ideas," insisting that in Nicaragua there is no political room for the opposition.

Fiallos Charged With Theft

PA082258 Paris AFP in Spanish 1956 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry today announced that the Nicaraguan Government will ask Costa Rica to extradite Francisco Fiallos, former Nicaraguan ambassador to Washington, who now resides in Costa Rica. The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry has charged Fiallos with withdrawing $665,253 from a government account. The Foreign Ministry explained that Fiallos withdrew the money a few days before resigning his post. The money was from a real estate transaction and had been deposited in Washington by the Sandinist government.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto today told the press that he had spoken to Fiallos over the phone. He added that Fiallos stated that he had given the $668,253 to former Commander Eden Pastora, who is one of the leaders of anti-Sandinist groups that operate in Costa Rica.

However, the foreign minister said that he phoned Pastora later, and the latter denied he had received the money.

D'Escoto added that Fiallos expected an invasion of Nicaragua to take place on 8 December. For that reason, he sent a statement to LA PRENSA in Managua to be published after that date.

The minister said that "the invasion did not take place, and Fiallos revealed himself as a dishonest man, a thief, a traitor who knelt before U.S. power."

From Costa Rica, Fiallos yesterday accused the Nicaraguan Government of having become a dictatorship and said he had joined an opposition group headed by Eden Pastora, businessman Alfonso Robelo and Miskito leader Brooklyn Rivera. This opposition group carries out activities against the Sandinist regime from Costa Rica.

Embezzlement Charges Discussed

PA100524 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Jan 83

[Text] Francisco Fiallos Navarro, former Nicaraguan ambassador to Washington, has said that the charges made by Foreign Minister d'Escoto are but a sample of the vileness of totalitarianism. Replying to D'Escoto's charges that he had embezzled more than $600,000 from the sale of a Nicaraguan property in Washington, Fiallos said that he expected this kind of insult and slander, and he is not scared by it.

The former Sandinist ambassador to Washington added that the Sandinists say this about everyone who resigns from their side over differences with the Nicaraguan totalitarian regime. He said that the world knows that this technique is also used by the other totalitarian countries, which resort to making charges of financial irregularities in an effort to mar the images of those who understand that the people should not be oppressed.

He stressed that if this had happened he would have made it public due to the inherent weaknesses of the democratic systems in their struggle against the communist regimes. [as heard]

The former ambassador to Washington made it clear that if he had had an opportunity to deliver money to the people through the democratic organizations struggling for the liberation of the people he would have done so, because it would have been immoral and cowardly to deliver the money to a regime that murders and robs the people.

The former diplomat said that he will stay in San Jose for a few days, and that he will consider the possibility of returning to Washington in order to clarify publicly everything concerning the charges.

CASTRO, LOPEZ MICHELSEN DISCUSS AREA PROBLEMS

PA101457 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] Havana — Last night, former Colombian President Alberto Lopez Michelsen concluded 2 days of talks with Cuban leader Fidel Castro. They discussed various matters of continental interest.

Subsequently, Castro invited Lopez Michelsen to visit a key in southern Cuba, taking advantage of the former Colombian president's visit to Havana to accompany Gabriel Garcia Marquez to the Cuban revolution's ceremony honoring Garcia Marquez' selection as winner of the Nobel Price for Literature.

Castro and Lopez Michelsen met privately on Saturday and Sunday. They returned to Havana last night after discussing topics that were not publicly disclosed but which probably concern the Central American crisis, the arms buildup, possible new relations between Bogota and Havana and the mediation requested from Colombia, Venezuela and Mexico in the search for peace in Central America.

CARACOL's special reporters in Cuba were able to establish that Colombia will have to meet certain preconditions which any country of the world has to meet prior to being admitted to the Nonaligned Movement. These preconditions include the Colombian Foreign Ministry's having to recall the Colombian troops which are part of a multinational peace force in Sinai. Colombia would also be required to close its consulate in South Africa, a country which the Nonaligned Movement rejects because of its racist practices. This change in our international policy would have to be officially announced this week as the nonaligned preparatory meeting begins in Managua today. CARACOL confirmed that Cuba and Nicaragua are fully supporting Colombia's bid for admission to the Nonaligned Movement.

International political experts told CARACOL in Havana that the Havana and Managua governments have excellent attitudes toward Belisario Betancur's administration.

In addition, journalists Yamit Amat and (Javier Ayala) established that some former guerrillas from Colombian rebel groups such as the National Liberation Army [ELN] and the 19 April Movement are attending the university in Cuba. ELN founder Fabio Vasquez Castano is going to law school and has excellent grades. Other former guerrillas whose names were not disclosed are also going to school in Cuba.

Lopez Nichelsen will spend a few more days in Havana at the invitation of Fidel Castro.

ALMEIDA BOSQUE PRAISES RELATIONS WITH MALI

FL072040 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1902 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque, vice president of our country's Council of State, speaking today at the opening of the official talks between Cuba and Mali, praised the high level attained in relations between the two countries. Politburo member Almeida Bosque told the African group headed by Baba Diarra, joint secretary general of the Mali People's Democratic Union Party, that the exchange between the two nations reflects the high development of friendship ties which unite us. The Malian leader said that Cuba and his country are two nations whose friendship is firmly established by history, because the two have experienced the same suffering and were liberated under identical conditions. Baba Diarra described Almeida as one man that has made his mark on history.

USSR MINISTER ENDS VISIT, DOCUMENT SIGNED

FL102105 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] At the conclusion today of a visit to our country by Vasiliy Shamshin, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Minister of Communications, a document recording his activities in our country and agreements of economic, scientific and technical cooperation finalized by the two countries was signed in Havana.

Signing for the Cuban side was Pedro Guelmes, member of Cuba's Communist Party Central Committee and our country's communications minister.

[Begin Guelmes recording] Once more we wish to express our profound gratitude to Comrade Shamshin for all the assistance he is giving us and for the interest he has shown in the development of communications in Cuba. Thank you very much. [end recording]

[Begin Shamshin recording — in Russian with consecutive Spanish translation] Our cooperation has continued over a period of more than 20 years, the Cuban comrades have always worked very hard together and shoulder to shoulder with the comrades who have come to Cuba to develop projects. I believe it is precisely that which has made it possible to complete in time all projects. [end recording]

RODRIGUEZ HOLDS TALKS WITH UN REPRESENTATIVES

FL081905 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Jan 83

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has received five permanent representatives of the United Nations who have been visiting our country since 2 January.

Carlos Rafael Rodriguez extensively briefed the representatives of Sri Lanka, Cyprus, Nepal, Kuwait and Indonesia on the Cuban revolution's policy, and our social and economic development. During the meeting the participants discussed the current international situation, the important role being played by the Nonaligned Movement and the interest shared by all in guaranteeing the success of the seventh summit, scheduled to take place in New Delhi next March.

Likewise, the participants noted the importance that the coordinating bureau ministerial meeting, which will begin next Monday in Managua, Nicaragua, has for the Nonaligned Movement as well as for the proposals aimed at finding a political solution to the grave problems affecting Central America and the Caribbean.

THATCHER'S FALKLANDS TRIP A 'COLONIALIST DISPLAY'

PA101955 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has visited the military facilities and the air terminal in Puerto Argentino, in the Malvinas islands, where she arrived yesterday amid strict security measures. The British head of government plans to visit the Georgias and South Sandwich Archipelagos.

The British media have described Thatcher's trip to the Malvinas as a new colonialist display by the London Government, which ignores the recent UN resolution urging both Great Britain and Argentina to resume the talks on the sovereignty over those islands.

According to the sources, Thatcher's visit coincides with the British Parliament's current review of a report criticizing London's official policy in connection with the Malvinas. They add that Thatcher's untimely visit to the Malvinas takes place on the eve of the Nonaligned Movement Coordinating Bureau meeting in Managua, Nicaragua, where Argentina will defend its right to those islands, located in the South Atlantic more than 23,400 km from Great Britain.

Meanwhile, Argentine Foreign Minister Juan Aguirre Lanari has charged that Prime Minister Thatcher's visit to the Malvinas Islands, on the eve of the nonaligned ministerial meeting scheduled to open today in Managua, is an act of provocation.

At a news conference held at Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport upon arriving in Managua, Aguirre Lanari also commented on Argentina's position on Central America, saying that his country supports the Mexican-Venezuelan peace proposal for the area.

The Argentine foreign minister said that his country is indebted to Latin America for the great solidarity expressed in the wake of the conflict with Great Britain for sovereignty over the Malvinas.

Carlos Muniz, the Argentine ambassador to the United Nations, told newsmen in the Nicaraguan capital that his country fully agrees with the final document drafted by Nicaragua for this nonaligned ministerial meeting. According to Muniz, Argentina has nothing to do with the presence of Argentine advisers in Honduras.

Meanwhile, Latin America's political circles have described Prime Minister Thatcher's visit to the Malvinas Islands as open and premeditated provocation. According to these circles, Thatcher's presence in that remote possession in the South Atlantic is a reminder that the 150th anniversary of British colonialist occupation of those islands was commemorated only 6 days ago.

In addition, the Latin American political sources add, the prime minister watched training exercises performed by the pilots of U.S.-made "Phantom" planes, who are stationed in the Malvinas, thus reaffirming the militaristic nature of Thatcher's visit.

MEXICO REJECTS HONDURAN LEADER, U.S. PROPOSAL

PA090449 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 7 Jan 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The Mexican Government has officially denied that Edgardo Paz Barnica, the foreign secretary of the Honduran regime, will soon travel to Mexico to try to convince the Mexican authorities to join the so-called Forum for Peace and Democracy created at the initiative of the United States in October in San Jose, Costa Rica.

The forum, which says its objective is to find peaceful and negotiated solutions to the Central American political crisis, is in reality a new maneuver of Yankee imperialism aimed at hiding Washington's interventionist intentions in the region, and at reducing the importance of the constructive peace proposals previously formulated by the Mexican and Venezuelan governments.

The Mexican Foreign Secretariat statement is very clear. Mexico, it said, has no intention of joining the so-called Forum for Peace and Democracy, nor does it plan to receive the official visit of the Honduran foreign secretary.

It also added that Mexico views as valid and in effect the Central American peace initiative presented on 5 September by Former Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo and Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins. The Mexican Foreign Secretariat also clarified that in order for a foreign official to make an official visit to Mexico, a prior bilateral agreement must exist, and that in the case of Paz Barnica such an agreement does not in any way exist and for the time being none is contemplated.

According to the Mexican newspaper UNO MAS UNO, the Mexican Foreign Secretariat's denial is the first statement of the Foreign Secretariat on the current Mexican Government's position on the political crisis being experienced by the Central American peoples.

The Mexican-Venezuelan proposal to find negotiated solutions to the crisis in the region initially awakened much interest in some official circles in Honduras. However, Roberto Suazo, the leader of the Honduran Government, and Costa Rican President Alberto Monge subsequently began preparations for the meeting that would later be held in San Jose at the request of the United States and from which the Forum for Peace and Democracy emerged. Nicaragua was not invited to that meeting. This shows the real objective of the meeting. At the same time, Jorge Castaneda, the then Mexican foreign secretary, and Venezuelan Foreign Minister Alberto Zambrano declined the invitation to attend the meeting. All of this explains the maneuver now begun by Paz Barnica and the interests that he represents. It cannot be overlooked that the new maneuver by the Honduran authorities and U.S. imperialism comes at a time when the last preparations are being made for the ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned Countries Movement Coordinating Bureau, which will be held in Managua, Nicaragua, on 12-14 January.

Everything indicates that the participants in this meeting will issue new appeals for beginning negotiations to politically solve the Central American conflicts, particularly the border dispute between Honduras and Nicaragua.

Once again, the attempts by the U.S. Government and its Central American allies do not find fertile soil to take root because the peoples of our America have replied to the aggressiveness, lies and slanders of the imperialist reactionaries with the unity of their forces and the strength of their just ideas.

COUNCIL OF STATE HONORS HUSAK WITH AWARD

FL101852 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1550 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] The Cuban Council of State has given the Playa Giron Award to Gustav Husak, president of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic and KSC Central Committee general secretary, for his outstanding participation in the fight against fascism and in the struggle for democracy in building a socialist society as head of his country's government and party.

CASTRO CABLES CEAUSESCU ON REPUBLIC'S DAY

AU111143 Bucharest SCINTEIA in Romanian 3 Jan 83 p 3

[Text] To Comrade Nicolae Ceausescu, RCP secretary general and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania; and Comrade Constantin Dascalescu, prime minister of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Esteemed comrades, on the 35th anniversary of the proclamation of the republic, I take pleasure in extending comradely greetings and cordial congratulations on behalf of the people, the Communist Party, the Council of State and Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba.

On this event of great importance for the Romanian people, we value the successes achieved in building the socialist society and in fulfilling the tasks set forth by the 12th RCP Congress.

Romania meets this new anniversary in the context of a difficult international situation when mankind is threatened by a serious danger of war as a result of the aggressive policy promoted by the imperialists and their allies who do not hesitate to take the world to the threshold of a nuclear disaster. This is why cooperation and unity of action by the socialist countries and the other progressive forces throughout the world are more and more important for stopping the arms race and ensuring peace.

I want to take this opportunity to express the conviction that the relations of friendship and cooperation between our peoples, parties and governments will continue to be strengthened in the interest of both peoples, the common cause of socialism and communism.

We wish you new successes in socialist construction and in the well-being and prosperity of the fraternal Romanian people.

[Signed] Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and chairman of the Council of State and of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba

BRAZIL

PUBLIC SERVANT DEMONSTRATION BROKEN UP

PY071729 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] With [teargas] bombs, dogs and threats, the military police were able to suppress a demonstration that was being carried out today by the workers of the Public Garbage Company of Goiania. As the workers had not received their year-end bonus, 500 of them tried to stop trucks from entering the city of Voiania's garbage disposal area.

Despite the violent repression carried out by the police, which caused injuries to four persons, the public servants have decided to hold another demonstration tomorrow through the streets of the downtown area.

In Porto Alegre, the federal employees of Rio Grande do Sul State have decided, during a congress that has just closed, to return to work on Monday morning. The strike will continue until 1900 [2200 GMT] tomorrow in order to demonstrate to the government that they were not subdued by Labor Minister Murilo Macedo's pronouncement that the strike was illegal. The minister stated that the employees could be punished with warnings, suspensions and with termination under just causes.

The return to work on Monday will only be temporary in order to open up the possibility of dialogue with the government. If this does not happen, the strike will be renewed on Wednesday. Rio Grande do Sul's 45,000 federal employees are on strike protesting the salary readjustment that has been implemented by the government. They believe that it is not enough.

ARRIVAL OF EXPEDITION AT ANTARCTIC BASE NOTED

PY071448 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Excerpt] The Brazilian flag is now flying in the Antarctic and was raised as soon as the Brazilian expedition stepped on the Antarctic snow. It was an emotional and happy experience when the Barao de Teffe dropped anchor. The Brazilian flag was raised, with a Polish guard of honor, beside the flags of Poland, the United Nations, the FRG and the United States.

CHILE

FOREIGN MINISTER TO TOUR SOUTHEAST ASIA

PY101310 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] The tour which Foreign Minister Rene Rojas Galdames will soon make to the Southeast Asian region is intended to strengthen Chilean links with that part of the world. The foreign minister will make an official visit to Thailand from 20 to 23 February, to Singapore from 23 to 26 February and from 26 February to 1 March he will visit Indonesia.

He has been officially invited to all these countries by their respective governments, whose ambassadors recently visited him in Santiago. It was pointed out [words indistinct] to those countries. The objectives to be achieved are the strengthening of relations and the drawing up of basic agreements, preferably in the economic sphere.

MEXICO

HAVANA REPORTS FURTHER ON DE LA MADRID SPEECH

PA071942 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Jan 83

[Text] Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid has announced a program for fighting inflation and unemployment, which he described as the most urgent problems in the country's economic reorganization. He stressed that his basic policy is to defend the weakest sectors of the population. In a message to the nation for 1983, De la Madrid admitted that the measures that have been adopted so far have created new problems. According to observers, these problems seem to focus around an substantial price hike, which forced the labor sector to demand that the Commerce Secretariat take practical steps to control the price of staples.

In view of the gravity of these problems, the Mexican president stressed, 1983 will be a difficult year, but a fruitful one in the area of dialogue and coordinated work between workers and the Mexican Government. Fidel Velasquez, leader of the Confederation of Mexican Workers, said that the economic crisis will not result in social conflict, even if the rank and file are restless.

An analysis issued by the Institute of Economic Research of Mexico's Autonomous University predicted a 1983 inflation rate similar to that of 1982, which surpassed 100 percent. It stressed that the main obstacle to reducing this rate is the foreign debt, along with productive, structural and financial imbalances within Mexico's economy.

PERU

LABOR LEADER FORESEES DIFFICULT YEAR FOR PERU

PA080127 Havana in Quechua to Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru 2200 GMT 4 Jan 83

[Text] Eduardo Castillo, secretary general of the Confederation of Workers of Peru, said that 1983 will be a year of struggle for the people if the present government does not change the economic, political and social situation prevailing in the country [words indistinct]. He added that the problems are becoming more serious mainly because the poorer classes are the hardest hit.

URUGUAY

NO OFFICIAL COMMENT ON THATCHER TRIP AT PRESENT

PY101714 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Jan 83

[Text] This morning, Foreign Minister Carlos Maeso evaluated the situation following the British prime minister's arrival in the Malvinas Islands. High Foreign Ministry sources told El Espectador this morning that the foreign minister was briefed on the matter by his advisers. It was also learned that our country will make no comments on the issue now, although it is following events closely. It was also reported that so far neither the Argentine nor the British ambassadors have asked the foreign minister for an audience in order to address the matter.